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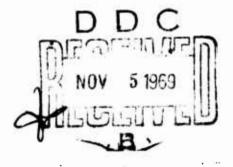
USAAVSCOM PROJECT NO. 68-37 USAASTA PROJECT NO. 68-37

ARMY PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE AH-IG TRACTOR TAIL ROTOR MODIFICATION

FINAL REPORT

JOHN I. NAGATA PROJECT ENGINEER MARVIN W. BUSS PROJECT OFFICER/PILOT

JUNE 1969

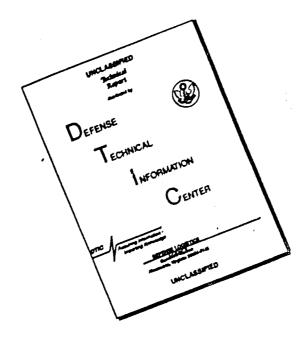


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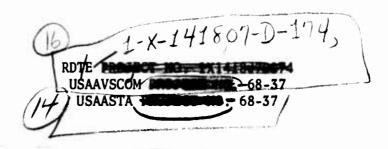
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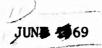


ARMY PRELIMINARY EVALUATION
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AH-1G TRACTOR TAIL ROTOR MODIFICATION.

FINAL REPORT. 11 July (-1, a 6),

JOHN I. NAGATA

MARVIN W. BUSS PROJECT OFFICER/PILOT





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US ARMY AVIATION SYSTEMS TEST ACTIVITY EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 93523

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ABSTRACT

The Army Preliminary Evaluation of the tractor tail rotor modification on the AH-1G helicopter was conducted in California at Bishop Municipal Airport (4000 ft) and Coyote Flats (9500 ft) during the period 9 August to 31 August 1968. This test was conducted to confirm the results of the feasibility tests with the proposed final configuration for this modification and also to evaluate both the performance in hover and level flight and the handling qualities throughout the flight envelope. This modification provides an increase in the usable in-ground-effect (IGE) operating envelope and improves the directional control characteristics while maneuvering. The test showed good agreement with the results of the earlier feasibility tests. The maximum safe IGE maneuvering envelope for the tractor tail rotor AH-1G was determined and defined by those conditions of gross weight and density altitude where a 10-percent directional control margin was available in the critical azimuth in a 15knot wind. Using the same criteria for the standard AH-1G configuration, the difference due to the improved directional control with the tractor tail rotor is equivalent to an additional 1500 pounds payload at the same density altitude. However, the standard AH-1G operator's manual contains specific wind azimuth and gross weight restrictions which are less severe than the criteria defined above. With these operational restrictions applied to the standard AH-1G, the difference in operating weight for the two configurations is considerably less than 1500 pounds; however, the safety margin is reduced. It must be emphasized that the tractor tail rotor does not solve the basic directional control problem of the AH-1G. The performance capability of the AH-1G weapon system cannot be realized because of the inadequate directional control. The power loads in the tail rotor drive system are still high with the tractor tail rotor. Steady state power loads recorded in the tail rotor drive were near the revised maximum allowed of 165 shaft horsepower (shp). Transient peaks up to 225 shp were recorded during maneuvers. The performance and handling qualities in forward flight up to neverexceed airspeed (VNE) showed no significant difference between the standard and tractor tail rotor configurations.

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

 Results of the US Army Aviation Systems Test Activity (USAASTA) Phase B testing showed that the directional control power was inadequate within a large portion of the proposed low speed in-ground-effect (IGE) maneuver envelope for the AH-1G helicopter. These tests had been conducted with a 20-degree tail rotor blade angle rigging for full left pedal (ref 2, app I). The tail rotor was rerigged to 23 degrees to provide more directional control and flight tested by the contractor. With the increased maximum blade angle more directional control was available, but the high power loads in the tail rotor drive system (up to 290 shaft horsepower (shp)) caused unacceptable damage to the tail rotor drive system components. Equally important, the increased control did not solve the problem of directional control instability at certain conditions of relative wind within the required operating envelope. Later, a revised tail rotor blade configuration was tested with similar results. The contractor then conducted tests to define the maximum thrust capability of the tail rotor and the corresponding horsepower required to develop it as a function of the tail rotor blade angle. A rigging of 19 degrees was determined to require approximately 230 shp when developing maximum thrust. Limited tests were then conducted by the contractor and USAASTA to define the safe operating envelope and provide guidance for the operators (ref 3, app I). These tests proved that even at the lowest usable mission weight and low altitudes, large areas of uncertain and inadequate directional control existed. Various warnings and operating restrictions were imposed on the AH-1G as a result. Despite these warnings and restrictions, there are continuing reports from the operating units of incidents and accidents resulting from loss of directional control while maneuvering in the parking or loading areas. The reports also indicate that the restrictions on weight significantly reduce the combat effectiveness of the helicopter. To eliminate these restrictions, a modification was then proposed by the contractor using the same gear boxes, tail rotor blades, most control components and a tractor type tail rotor configuration. The modification is fully described in reference 5, appendix I, BHC Engineering Change, Proposal AH-1G 350. Early tests were conducted by the contractor and USAASTA within the low speed maneuver envelope to evaluate the feasibility of the tractor tail rotor configuration as a solution to the AH-1G directional control problem (ref 4, app I). These tests indicated a larger operating envelope was possible and the directional control instability at or near control limits was largely eliminated. Further testing by the contractor to clear the modification throughout the complete speed and maneuver envelope was completed in July 1968. On 19 July 1968

the US Army Aviation Systems Command (USAAVSCOM) directed USAASTA to conduct an Army Preliminary Evaluation (APE) of the tractor tail rotor on the AH-1G helicopter (ref 7, app I). The test sites were selected to provide a basis for comparison with the results of the previous tests and evaluate the maneuver envelope at higher altitudes.

TEST OBJECTIVES

- 2. The test objectives of the Army Preliminary Evaluation were as follows:
- a. A quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the high speed handling qualities of the AH-1G and the tractor tail rotor configuration.
- b. A quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the handling qualities in the low speed envelope up to the maximum usable density altitude.
- c. A quantitative evaluation of the hover and level flight performance of the AH-IG with the tractor tail rotor.

DESCRIPTION

3. The test aircraft, S/N 66-15283, is the thirty-ninth AH-1G produced by the Bell Helicopter Company (BHC). It was designed specifically for the armed role. It is a conventional helicopter with a narrow fuselage two-place tandem (gunner forward and pilot aft). The main rotor has two blades and a door hinge. The modified tail rotor resembles the standard except it is located on the right side of the vertical pylon and rotates in the opposite direction (counterclockwise). The rigging for full left pedal is a 19-degree tail rotor blade angle, the same as used for the standard configuration. The controls are conventional in the aft (pilot) cockpit. The cyclic and collective are short, side-arm type in the front (gunner) cockpit. The controls to the swashplate are positive mechanical with a dual, irreversible hydraulic boost system to reduce control forces. A magnetic-brake type, spring-feel system is provided for the cyclic and directional controls. A three-axes stability and control augmentation system (SCAS) is installed to improve the handling qualities. The elevator is mechanically linked to the longitudinal cyclic control to provide improved static longitudinal stability and larger center of gravity (cg) range. The helicopter is powered by a Lycoming T53L-13 turboshaft engine rated at 1400 shp. The engine is derated to 1100 shp at 314 rotor rpm due to main transmission torque limitations.

SCOPE OF TEST

- 4. The scope of this APE was limited by the time the aircraft was available to USAASTA for testing. Two weeks for testing were allotted with an additional week for aircraft preparation and ferry flights. Although the AH-1G was not held to MIL-H-8501A in directional control at the time of acceptance, comparison of data results with the specification was made in the appropriate sections.
- 5. The flight restrictions which governed the conduct of this test were those defined in the operator's manual (ref 8, app I) with the following exceptions as stated in the safety of flight release (ref 6, app I):
- a. Current limitations with gross weight on sideward and rearward flight and takeoffs and landings are rescinded for this aircraft and sideward and rearward flight limits for all gross weights and altitudes are 35 knots.
- b. Rapid hovering turns and large, rapid directional pedal inputs should be avoided in order to preclude damage to the tail rotor gear boxes. Moderate turn rates of 30 deg/sec (90 degrees in 3 seconds) should not be exceeded. The abrupt arrestment of turns in excess of 30 deg/sec is prohibited.
- c. If 175 shp is exceeded on the tail rotor drive shaft, an inspection is required in accordance with AMSAV-SDO message 10-4, 24 October 1967.
- 6. Eighteen test flights were flown during this test for a total of 17.6 hours. In addition, 22.4 hours were flown ferrying the aircraft to the test sites and returning it to Arlington, Texas. Since Phase D testing with the standard AH-IG was in progress, similar tests were flown with it to provide comparison data.

METHOD OF TEST

- 7. Performance and stability and control were evaluated using standard engineering flight test techniques for both the hover and level flight conditions.
- 8. Paced flight tests were conducted in ground effect (IGE) at the 4000- and 9500-foot sites. A calibrated ground pace vehicle was used for speed reference and the heading was varied in even increments to cover all relative wind azimuths at each speed. Wind speed and direction were continuously monitored and this was correlated

with the data points by radio. Control positions, attitudes, rates, tail rotor blade angle and tail rotor shaft torque were recorded for each stabilized point. Data points were taken up to the control limit or 35 knots, whichever occurred first.

- 9. The directional control capability was evaluated by making rapid, full pedal control inputs from stabilized flight conditions where left pedal remaining was less than 10 percent.
- 10. Arrestment of hover turn rates was evaluated by establishing steady hover turn rates to the right in calm conditions and rapidly applying full left pedal until the turn rate was zero. Yaw rate, pedal input and tail rotor shaft torque were recorded.

CHRONOLOGY

11. The chronology of this program is as follows:

| Test directive received | 19 July | 1968 |
|--|-------------|------|
| Test helicopter received | 9 August | 1968 |
| Flight test commenced | 15 August | 1968 |
| Flight test completed | 31 August | 1968 |
| Test helicopter returned to contractor | 3 September | 1968 |
| Preliminary report submitted | 25 October | 1968 |

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

PERFORMANCE

Hover Performance

12. Tethered hover tests were conducted to determine the hover performance of the AH-1G tractor tail rotor configuration. The results are shown in figure 1, appendix II. Comparison of the hover performance for the tractor and the standard tail rotor configurations under the same conditions showed some difference in power required. The significance of the difference can not be accurately determined due to the lack of an engine calibration for the tractor tail rotor test aircraft.

Level Flight Performance

13. The results of the level flight tests are presented in figures 1 through 4, appendix II. The tests were conducted at a forward center of gravity (cg) with four XM159 rocket launchers (Hog Configuration). Gross weight and density altitude were varied to provide a range of CT for best comparison with standard AH-1G Phase D data. The comparison showed some difference in power required for the two configurations. This difference may or may not be significant depending on the error in the engine torque system of the test aircraft. Further testing with a calibrated engine would be required to accurately determine performance differences.

STABILITY AND CONTROL

Control Trim Positions

14. The directional control pedal requirement during hovering flight was recorded at each data point to determine where the operating envelope was limited by lifting thrust capability or directional control available. Two skid heights, 5 and 100 feet, were used to provide the data for comparison with the standard AH-1G, Phase D test results. Because of unreliable load cell readings during the tethered hover test at 10,500 feet, the thrust coefficient (CT) data was not available; however, power and pedal position data were recorded. An extrapolation of the power coefficient (Cp) versus CT curve obtained from hover tests at 5500 feet HD was used to derive CT values for the measured power data. The derived CT values were then plotted with pedal position (fig 5, app II).

15. The control trim positions for trimmed level flight were obtained during the level flight performance tests. The data are presented in figure 6, appendix II. The curves are similar to those of the standard AH-1G.

Static Lateral and Directional Stability

16. The static lateral and directional stability tests were conducted at three trim airspeeds with fixed collective. The sideslip angle was increased in increments from zero to the limit in both directions. The quantitative data are presented in figure 7, appendix II. The static lateral and directional stability is positive and increases with increasing airspeed. These results are similar to those of the standard AH-IG Phase D data and comply with paragraph 3.3.9 of MIL-H-8501A.

Dynamic Stability

17. Following one-inch pulse inputs, the dynamic stability characteristics of the AH-IG tractor tail rotor were qualitatively evaluated. The results showed no significant difference between the tractor and standard configurations (PRS A2 for SCAS ON, PRS A3 for SCAS OFF).

Controllability

- 18. Lateral and directional controllability tests were conducted in hover and forward flight. Quantitative data are presented in figures 8 through 19, appendix II. Table 1 shows the directional response results at various gross weights, altitudes, cg and trim airspeed for 0.75-inch inputs.
- 19. The maximum yaw displacement recorded for a 1-inch pedal input was well below the maximum of 50 degrees allowed in paragraph 3.3.7 of MIL-H-8501A. The response to directional control inputs is equal in both directions for the tractor tail rotor. For the same test conditions, the standard AH-1G directional response to the left is 6 deg/sec less than the rate to the right. The directional response characteristics in forward flight are similar for the two configurations.

Table 1. Directional Response.

324 rpm, Hover, Clean Configuration

| SVJ | Gross Weight (1b) | Center of Gravity (in) | Density Altitude (ft) | | Le Max Rate (deg/sec) | Left Max Rate Max Accel (deg/sec) (deg/sec ²) | Right Max Rate Mi (deg/sec) (o | Right Max Rate Max Accel (deg/sec) (deg/sec ²) |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| OFF | 8000 | 197.4 | 4,200 | | 16.5 | 22 | 16 | 23.5 |
| | 8680 | 193.5 | 5,660 | | 16.5 | 22 | 16 | 23.5 |
| 24.7 | 7375 | 195.0 | 10,660 | | 16.5 | 22 | 16 | 23.5 |
| 0 NO | 8000 | 197.4 | 4,200 | | 18 | 26 | 18.5 | r() |
| | 8680 | 193.5 | 5,660 | | 18 | 26 | 18.5 | 25 |
| | 7375 | 195.0 | 10,660 | | 18 | 26 | 18.5 | r., |
| | | | 324 rpm, level Flight, nog .onfiguration | cl Flight, | nog .onfigu | ration | | |
| V V | Gross Weight (1b) | Center of Gravity (in) | Density Altitude (ft) | Airspeed (KCAS) | Le Max Rate (deg/sec) | Left Max Rate Max Accel (deg/sec) (deg/sec ²) | Right Max Rate Ma (deg/sec) (c | Right Max Rate Max Accol (deg/sec) (deg/sec ²) |
| OFF | 7880 | 200 | 5,220 | 105 | ∞ | 23 | 8.2 | 23.8 |
| | 7805 | 200 | 5,370 | 128 | ∞ | 23 | 8.2 | 23.8 |
| | 9065 | 8.961 | 6,120 | 95 | 6.5 | 15 | 6 | 20 |
| CAC | 8875 | 197.5 | 6,220 | 118 | 6.5 | 15 | 6 | 20 |
| NO NO | 7880 | 200 | 5,220 | 105 | 12.5 | 23 | 11.5 | 21 |
| | 7805 | 200 | 5,370 | 128 | 12.5 | 23 | 11.5 | 21 |
| | 9065 | 196.8 | 6,120 | 95 | 10.5 | 21 | 6 | 24 |
| | 8875 | 197.5 | 6,220 | 118 | 10.5 | 21 | 6 | 24 |

20. The maximum roll rate during a SCAS OFF lateral stick input of 1 inch was 21.5 deg/sec to the right and 20.5 deg/sec to the left, respectively, at a gross weight of 7705 pounds and 128 KCAS. At a gross weight of 8800 pounds and 118 KCAS, the rates were 23 deg/sec and 18 deg/sec. For SCAS ON 1-inch lateral inputs, the maximum roll rates were 14 deg/sec right and 15 deg/sec left at 7705 pounds and 128 KCAS. At 8800 pounds and 118 KCAS, the rates were 17 deg/sec right and 14 deg/sec left. There was no tendency to over-control during SCAS ON flight (PRS 2). For SCAS OFF flight, the roll control characteristics are degraded considerably at high speeds above 120 KCAS. The aircraft has a short-period roll oscillation, and the control characteristics are such that experience and practice are required to avoid P10 in roll with roll channel OFF (PRS 5).

Simulated Engine Failure

21. The aircraft behavior following a simulated engine failure was evaluated qualitatively at airspeeds up to V_{NE} at 6000 feet H_D . The tests indicate no noticeable difference in aircraft characteristics between the two configurations (PRS 4).

DIRECTIONAL CONTROL CAPABILITY

During the directional control capability tests, the yaw response of the aircraft at critical wind azimuth and speed conditions was qualitatively evaluated to determine the margin of directional control travel required for safe IGE maneuvering. Qualitative impressions were correlated with the time history records of several left pedal inputs from stabilized sideward flight conditions where less than 10 percent of the total travel was available. Three such time histories are presented in figures 46, 47 and 48, appendix II. As a result of these tests, a yaw response of 8 deg/sec in 1 second after the input is considered marginally adequate for this aircraft. Figures 10, 46, 47 and 48 show that an input of 10-percent pedal travel (0.5 in.) will produce a yaw response of at least 8 deg/sec in 1 second for all conditions tested. This margin, 10 percent of the directional control travel, is significantly less than that required to meet the requirements of paragraph 3.3.6 of MIL-H-8501A. The specification requires a margin of approximately 14 percent. This 4-percent difference, although small, results in a significant difference in the flight envelope. The envelopes shown in figure 20 would be reduced approximately 5 knots each. To achieve the specification yaw response, 5 degrees displacement at a gross weight of 9500 pounds at the critical azimuth and 35 knots would require a tail rotor thrust much greater than the capability of either the standard or tractor tail configurations on the AH-1G helicopter. In addition, the AH-1G is further limited in both configurations by

maximum power allowed in the tail rotor drive system. Thus, these directional control capability rests defined the maximum safe IGE maneuver envelope for the AH-IG with the tractor tail rotor installed.

- 23. The AH-1G, with either tail rotor configuration, does not meet the present specification criteria for IGE yaw control power and directional response at the maximum gross weight and 35 knots. The present specification is considered inadequate for both design and test purposes. The following are reasons for this consideration:
- a. The criteria considers gross weight only with no allowance for the role (or category) of the helicopter, specifically not providing for very heavy helicopters.
- b. The criteria describes a yaw displacement without considering the yaw rate and acceleration characteristics which are the pilot's cues and form the basis for his control inputs.
- c. The criteria provides no minimum pedal travel margin. This must be considered along with total travel available, control sensitivity and the directional stability characteristics near the limit conditions. In this aircraft the minimum travel required is considered to be 0.5 inch.

PACED FLIGHT

24. Ground paced flight at selected azimuths and speeds was the test technique used to evaluate the IGE maneuver envelope. A calibrated ground pace vehicle was used as a speed and position reference. The speed was increased in 5-knot increments from 5 to 35 knots or until the control limit was reached. At each speed the relative wind azimuth was varied through 360 degrees by stabilizing on selected headings while maintaining a constant ground track over the runway. The skid height maintained during the tests was approximately 5 feet for all points. The test conditions flown with the tractor tail rotor and standard tail rotor configurations are summarized in tables 2 and 3, respectively. The test results are presented in figures 20 through 45, appendix II.

and standard tail rotor configurations are summarized in tables 2 and 3, respectively. The test results are presented in figures 20 through 45, appendix II.

Table 2. Test Conditions - Tractor Tail Rotor.

| Configuration | Gross Weight (1b) | CG Location (in.) | Density Altitude (ft) | Rotor (rpm) |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Heavy Scout | 8420 | 192.3 | 4,685 | 324 |
| Heavy Scout | 8885 | 194.5 | 6,010 | 324 |
| Heavy Scout | 8235 | 193.2 | 10,240 | 324 |

Table 3. Test Conditions - Standard Tail Rotor.

| Configuration | Gross Weight (1b) | CG Location (in) | Density Altitude (ft) | Rotor (rpm) |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Heavy Scout | 8060 | 200.7 | 130 | 324 |
| Heavy Scout | 8060 | 200.8 | 570 | 314 |
| Heavy Scout | 8050 | 200.8 | 5,260 | 324 |
| Heavy Scout | 7250 | 195.4 | 11,100 | 324 |

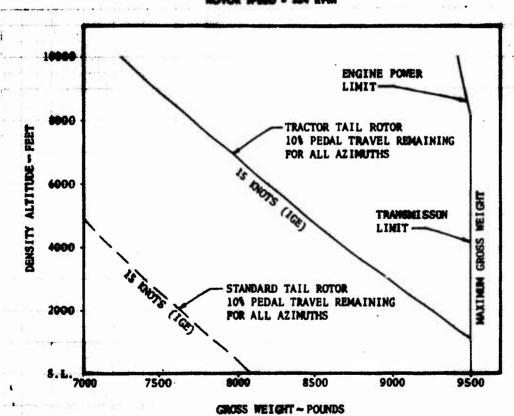
25. The 10-percent directional control margin discussed in paragraph 22 was used to define the areas of inadequate directional control. To ensure acceptable yaw response for this aircraft in the most adverse condition, the IGE maneuver envelope was defined by those stable IGE flight conditions where at least 10 percent (0.5 in.) of the total pedal travel is available as a control margin. This criterion is more accurately based on a steady tail rotor blade angle of 16.1 degrees with the remaining 2.9 degrees available as margin, regardless of the SCAS yaw actuator position, since the pedal position for certain tail rotor pitch angles vary with SCAS actuator position. The tractor tail rotor aircraft was modified to provide sufficient pedal travel to ensure that the defined, maximum tail rotor blade angle (19 degrees) could be obtained in the most adverse position of the SCAS actuator. The BHC changes to the directional control linkage include a modified bell crank and new location of the stops. The bell crank affects a 12-percent gearing change

between the pedal position and the tail rotor blade angle. This provides a margin of 12-percent left pedal travel with the SCAS actuator nulled. This modification was not on the tractor tail rotor AH-1G used for the feasibility tests; consequently, those tests were based on a 12.5-percent control margin. The standard AH-1G used during these tests did not incorporate this yaw control geometry change either. All data for the tests with the standard AH-1G were taken with the SCAS yaw channel OFF. This was done for two reasons, to ensure that the full 19-degree tail rotor blade angle would always be available to the pilot and also to facilitate rapid data reduction, since no tail rotor blade angle data were available except by addition of the pedal and SCAS actuator positions. The data presented for the tractor tail rotor tests were also taken with the yaw SCAS OFF, although comparison tests were flown with the SCAS ON.

- 26. The critical wind azimuth for the tractor tail rotor configuration is a right crosswind; for the standard configuration it is ahead of a direct right crosswind, 60 to 65 degrees off the nose of the aircraft. At and just below translation speed, 12 to 14 knots, the standard configuration is unstable at most crosswind and tailwind headings. The control inputs required to maintain a heading (±10 degrees) are frequent and considerably larger than for other flight conditions. This instability results in marginal or inadequate directional control. The critical wind speed for the tractor tail rotor was 16 knots at a referred gross weight (W/σ) of 9680 pounds, 12 knots at 10,600 pounds and zero at 11,230 pounds. The comparable numbers for the feasibility test with this aircraft are 27 knots at 9400 pounds, 18 knots at 9800 pounds and 13 knots at 10,800 pounds. For the standard configuration with the yaw SCAS OFF and the 10-percent pedal-remaining criterion, the critical speed is 15 knots at 8100 pounds, 10 knots at 9450 pounds and 13 knots at 8240 pounds using 314 rotor rpm. During testing at Coyote Flats, directional control of the standard AH-1G was completely lost on one occasion, while it was possible to maintain control under the same conditions with the tractor tail rotor aircraft and accomplish more demanding maneuvers.
- 27. The paced flight tests showed the tractor tail rotor was much more stable and easier to control than the standard AH-1G at all relative wind azimuths up to the absolute control limit. The standard AH-1G required frequent and occasionally large pedal inputs to maintain heading in the critical conditions. This difference in the ease and accuracy of directional control is considered to be an important improvement offered by the tractor tail rotor. With consistent response and no areas of instability, the number of incidents and accidents due to loss of directional control with this aircraft should be reduced.

Figure A shows the IGE maneuvering flight envelope for the tractor and standard tail rotor configurations. The envelope is based on a control margin of 10-percent pedal travel at a critical azimuth in a 15-knot wind. For the same conditions and wind/azimuth restrictions, the tractor configuration shows a 1500-pound greater payload capability. For density altitudes above 1000 feet, the envelope shows a reduction of payload from the performance capability. At 5000 feet this difference is approximately 1100 pounds. If more demanding directional control criteria are used, the difference is even greater. The tractor configuration affords a significant improvement and should be considered as an interim modification for AH-1G helicopters. However, it must be strongly emphasized that this would only be a partial, expedient solution to the AH-1G directional control problem. A study and/or development program is required to provide a directional control system for the AH-1G which will not restrict the operational capability of the weapon system.

PIOURE A
SISSWARD AND REARWARD PLICHT INVELOPE
GROSS WINGHT CAPABILITY
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29. Qualitative takeoff tests using the modified level acceleration technique, where the power is increased gradually until the aircraft accelerates through translational lift (13-15 knots), were made with both AH-1G configurations. The results showed that 5 to 10 percent more left pedal was required as the aircraft reached translation than the pedal position required for a stable hover under calm conditions. This pedal travel requirement during takeoffs was the same for both configurations and varies with the rate of power increase during the maneuver. For moderate, comfortable rates of acceleration a control margin of 10 percent in a zero wind hover provides adequate directional control to perform a safe takeoff. The degree to which this control margin affects the hover performance capability is shown in figures 1 and 5, appendix II. However, the 10-percent directional control margin for maneuvering capability in a 15-knot wind required the more restrictive envelope shown in figure A.

ARRESTMENT OF HOVER TURN RATES

30. Tests were conducted to evaluate the effects of sudden arrestments at various steady hover turn rates up to 30 deg/sec and at different gross weights. Figure 51, appendix II, shows a maximum of 225 tail rotor shp which was recorded while arresting a right turn at a rate of 30.9 deg/sec with a gross weight of 9090 pounds. For a total time of 2.9 seconds the tail rotor drive system load was above 165 shp which was the revised maximum allowable. At a gross weight of 9100 pounds the arrested turn rate was 21.5 deg/sec (fig 50). The peak load was 204 shp and the time above 165 shp was 1.4 seconds. At a gross weight of 8100 pounds a hover turn rate of 21.1 deg/sec was arrested with a peak load of 178 shp, and the time above 165 shp was 0.6 seconds. Following these tests, the examination of the gear boxes revealed a slight change in the gear wear pattern; but this change was not beyond the allowable tolerance. This was the final flight of the program; therefore, the wear included all which was experienced during 18 hours of testing. The results indicate that rapid arrestment of hover turn rates greater than 30 deg/sec produce very high power loads in the tail rotor drive system. Large pedal inputs (more than one inch) must be avoided, regardless of the initial turn rate, to prevent excessive power loading of the tail rotor shaft or at least to minimize the period of time the tail rotor shaft horsepower limit is exceeded. The operator's manual should be amended to include the warning note as worded in the safety of flight release (ref 6, app I).

CONCLUSIONS

- 31. The tractor tail rotor modification on the AH-IG helicopter improves the IGE maneuvering directional control and increases the payload capability significantly for similar wind/azimuth restrictions (para 28).
- 32. The tractor tail rotor modification does not solve the basic directional control problem of the AH-1G, and significant flight and gross weight restrictions are still required (para 28).
- 33. The change to the yaw control geometry included in the tractor tail rotor modification is essential for all AH-IG helicopters and should be incorporated at the earliest possible time (para 25).
- 34. A clear design and performance criteria for IGE yaw control power and directional response required for land based, attack helicopters should be developed for future designs and current engineering test evaluations (para 23).
- 35. The power loads in the tail rotor drive system with the tractor configuration are near the maximum allowed for stabilized IGE flight near the envelope limits and exceed the maximum allowed during IGE maneuvers requiring left pedal inputs (para 30).
- 36. The level flight and hover performance results for the tractor tail rotor AH-1G are close to those for the standard AH-1G. The exact amount and significance of the difference would require further testing with a calibrated engine installed (paras 12 and 13).
- 37. The handling qualities of the tractor tail rotor configuration throughout the forward flight envelope are the same as those for the standard AH-IG (paras 14 through 23).

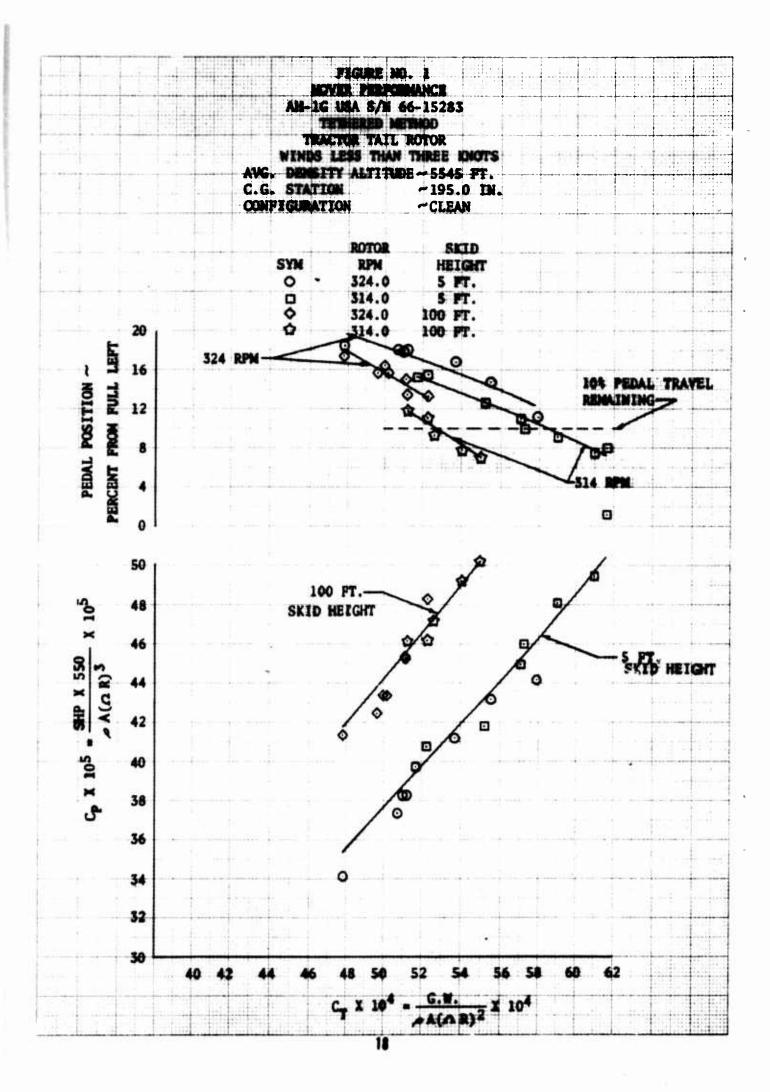
RECOMMENDATION

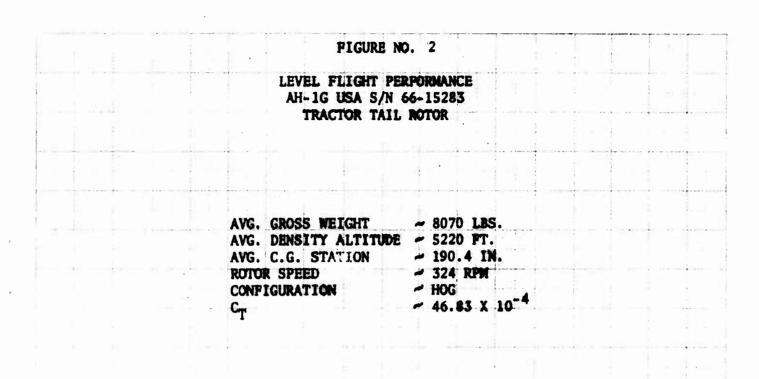
- 38. It is recommended that:
- ♦ a. The tractor tail rotor modification be considered for operational AH-1G helicopters as an interim solution for the directional control problem.
- b. An immediate study and/or development program be initiated to provide a directional control system which will eliminate present wind/azimuth and gross weight restrictions and accept the resulting power loads without gear box damage.
- c. A design performance criteria for land based, attack helicopter directional control power and response requirements be established.

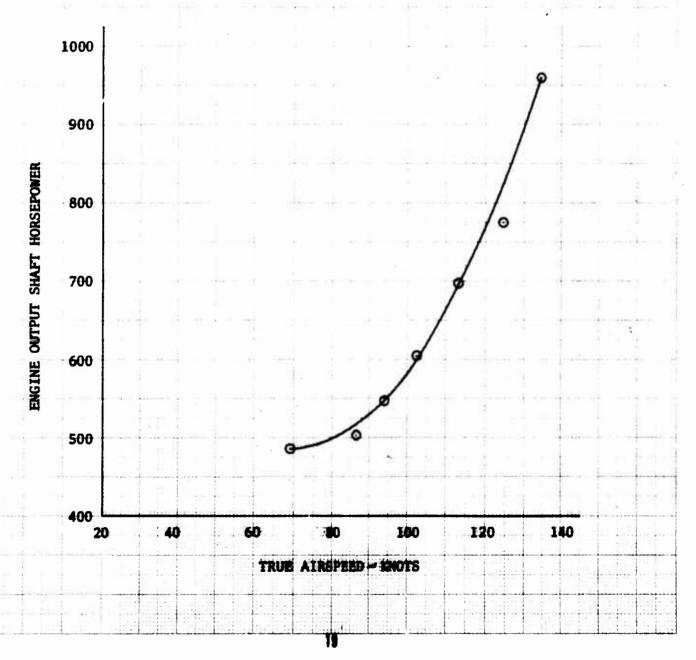
APPENDIX I. REFERENCES

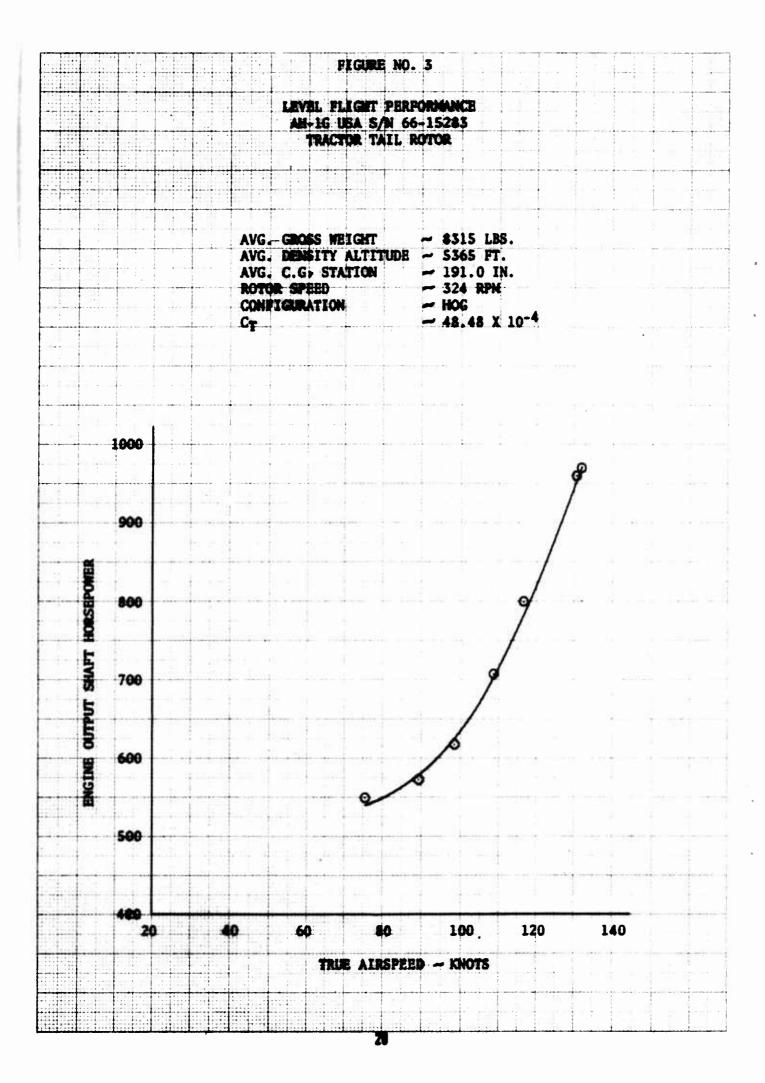
- 1. Test Plan, USAAVNTA Project No. 68-37, "Engineering Flight Test of the AH-1G Helicopter Equipped with a Tractor Tail Rotor, Army Preliminary Evaluation," September 1968.
- 2. Final Report, USAAVNTA Project No. 66-06, "Engineering Flight Test of the AH-1G Helicopter, Phase B, Part 1," January 1968.
- 3. Final Report, USAAVNTA Project No. 66-06, "Engineering Flight Test of the AH-1G Helicopter to Determine the Area of Inadequate Directional Control Power at 8100 Pounds Gross Weight," February 1968.
- 4. Final Report, USAAVNTA Project No. 66-06, "Feasibility Test of Tractor Tail Rotor Modification on the AH-1G Helicopter," March 1968.
- 5. Engineering Change Proposal AH-1G 350, Bell Helicopter Company, "Improved Anti-Torque System for the AH-1G Helicopter," 29 August 1967.
- 6. Unclassified Message, AMSAV-EF 8-1328, SUBJECT: "Safety of Flight Release for Tractor Tail Rotor Configuration, AH-1G," 8 August 1968.
- 7. Test Directive, USAAVCOM Project No. 68-37, "AH-1G Tractor Tail Rotor, Army Preliminary Evaluation," 19 July 1968.
- 8. Operator's Manual Army Model AH-1G Helicopter, TM55-1520-221-10, April 1967.

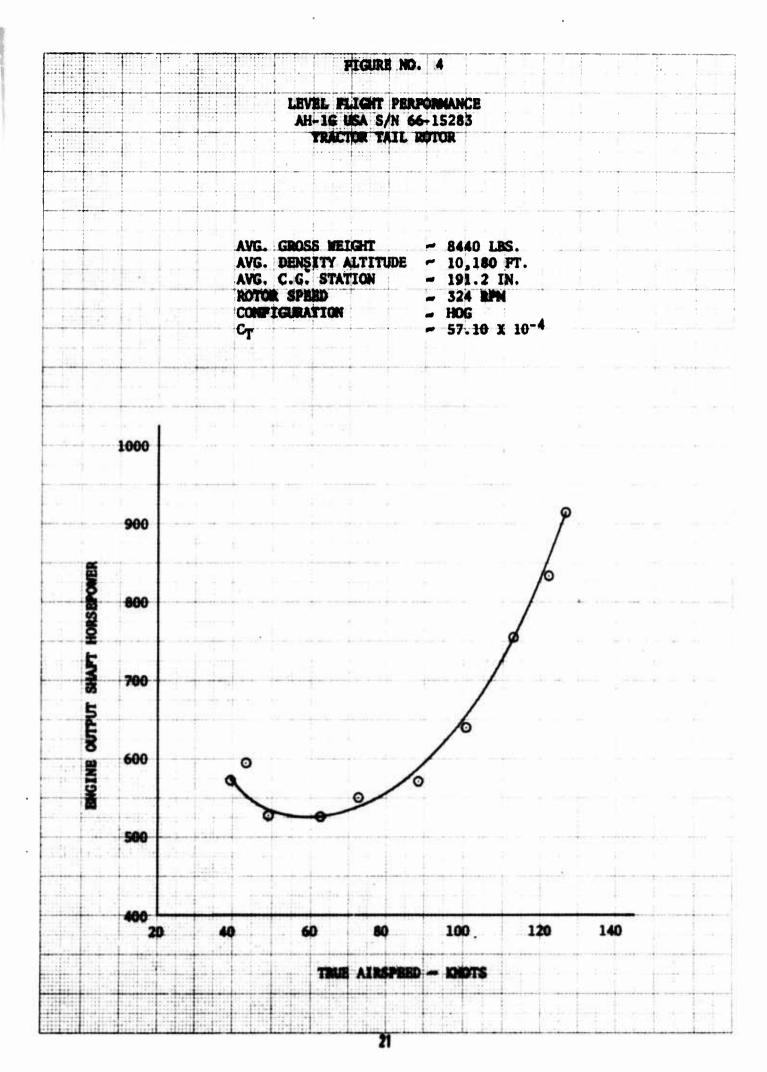
APPENDIX II. TEST DATA











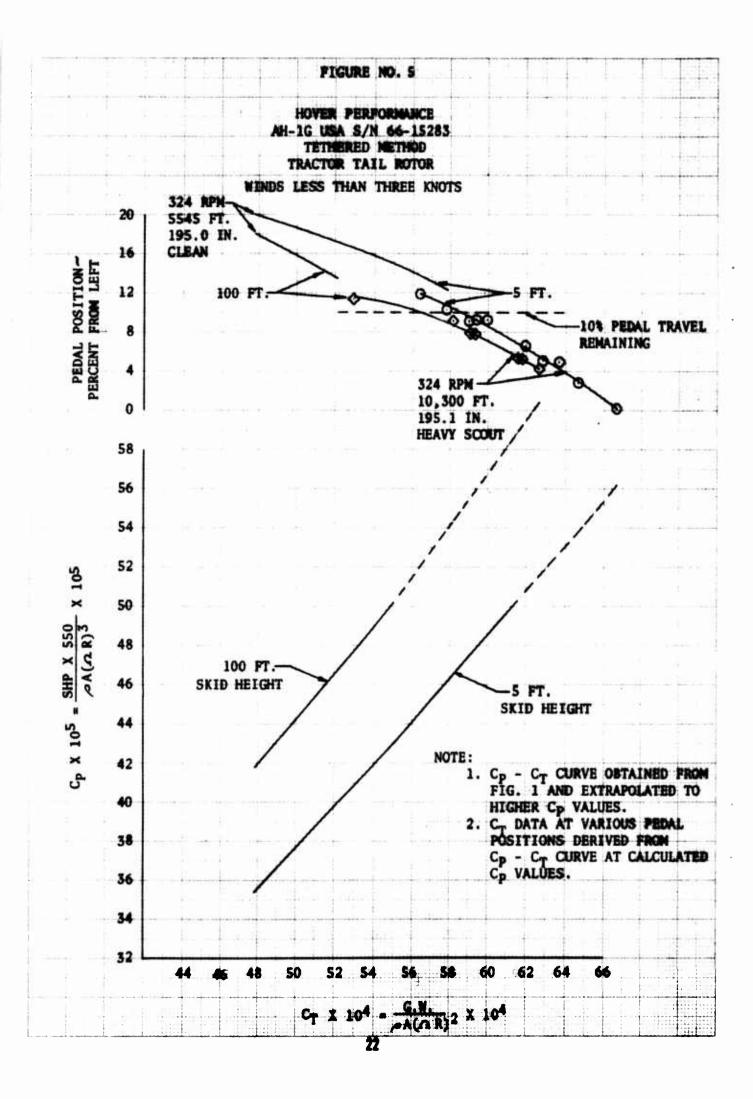
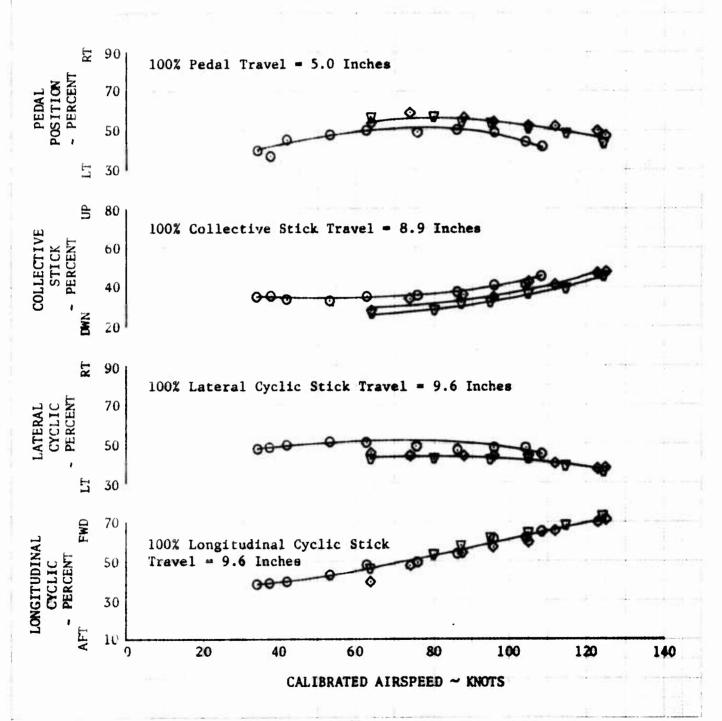
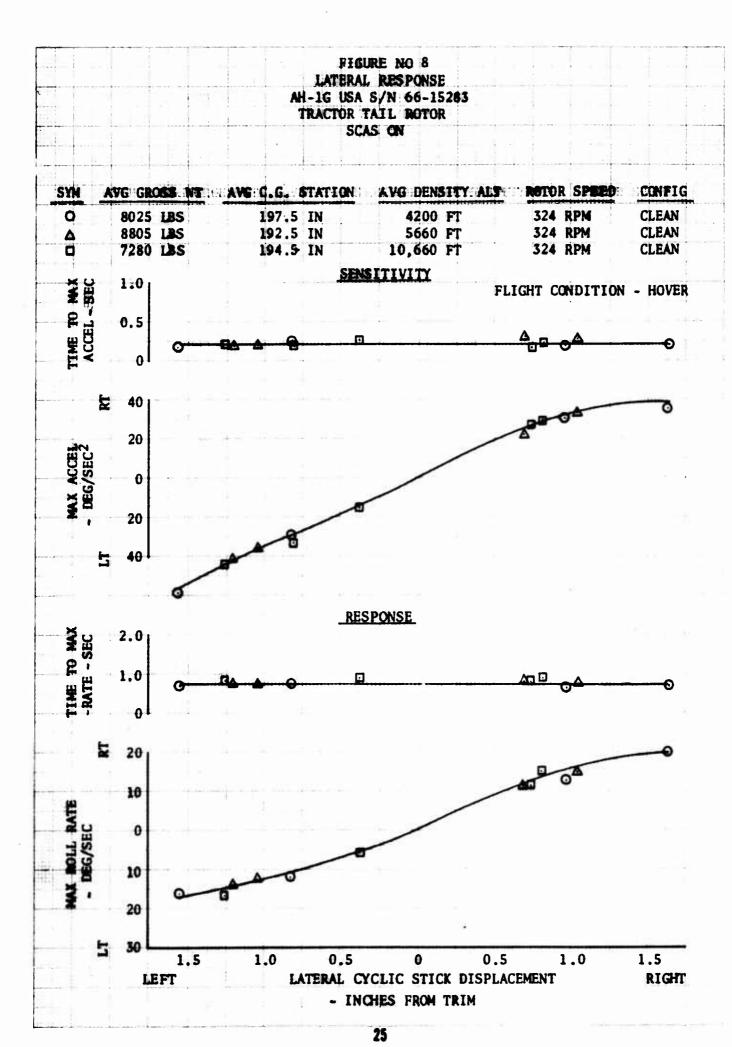


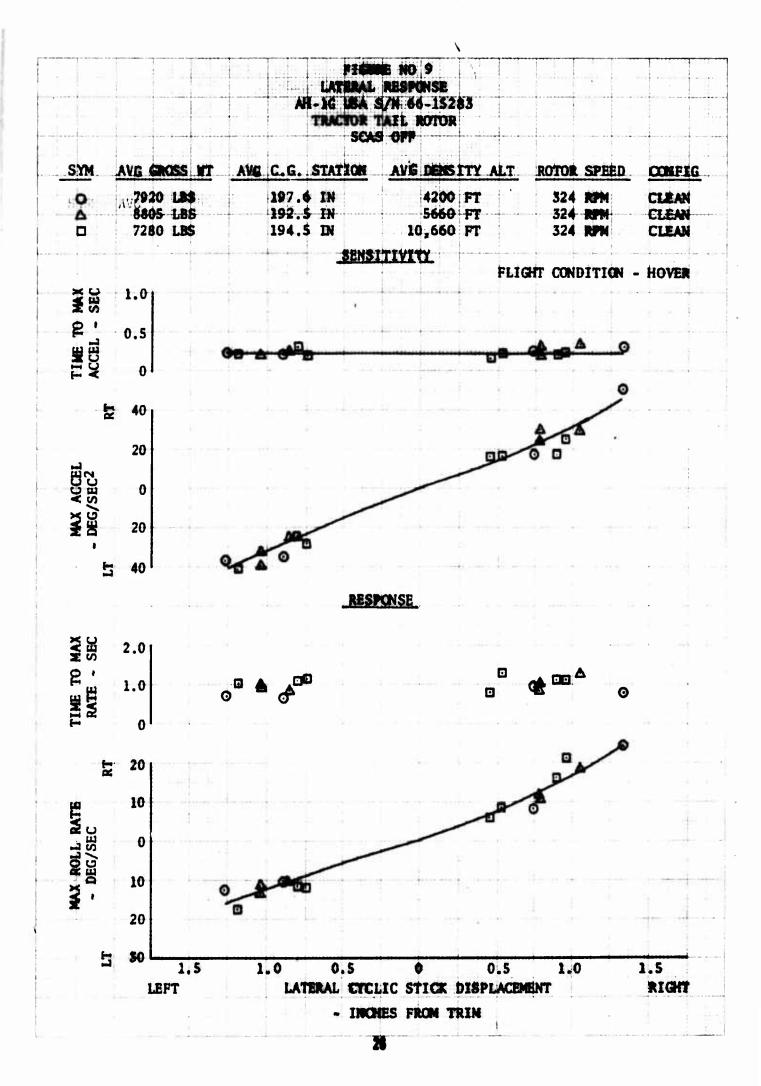
FIGURE NO 6 CONTROL TRIM POSITION DURING LEVEL FLIGHT AH-1G USA S/N 66-15283 TRACTOR TAIL ROTOR

| SYM | AVG GROSS WEIGHT LBS | AVG C.G STATION IN | DENSITY ALTITUM FI | ROTOR SPEED RPM | CONFIG |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| v | 8070 | 191.0 | 5220 | 324 | HOG |
| ♦ | 8315 | 191.0 | 5365 | 324 | HOG |
| 0 | 8440 . | 191.2 | 10,180 | 324 | HOG |



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| | | RIM | AVG | CROSS | AVG C.G. | DENSI | TY | ROTOR | | H |
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| SYM | | CAS | | BS | IN | FT | | RPN | CONFIG | |
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| - 6 | | 125 137 | | 115 220 | 192.2 192.0 | 620 620 | | 324 324 | CLEAN | ļ. |
| | -100 | 13/ | - 04 | 420 | 192.0 | 620 | U | 324 | CLEAN | į. |
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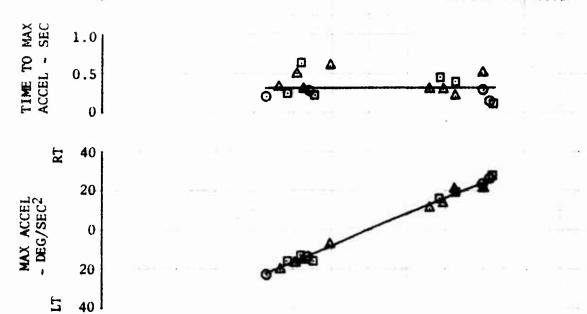
| | FIGURE | NO | 10 |
|-------|----------|------|--------|
| DIREC | TIONAL | RES | PONSE |
| AH-1G | USA S/I | V 66 | +15283 |
| TRAC | CTOR TAI | L | OTOR |
| | SCAS (| | |

| SYM | AVG GROSS WT | AVG C.G. STATION | AVG DENSITY ALT | ROTOR SPEED | CONFIG |
|-----|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 0 | 8000 LBS | 197.4 IN | 4200 FT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |
| Δ | 8680 LBS | 193.5 IN | 5660 PT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |
| 0 | 7375 LBS | 195.0 IN | 10,660 PT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |
| *0 | 7490 LBS | 195.9 IN | 10,550 FT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |
| *Δ | 8170 LBS | 195.2 IN | 4120 FT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |
| * | 7370 LBS | 194.8 IN | 5040 FT | 324 RPM | CLEAN |

* Implies standard tail rotor configuration

SENSITIVITY

FLIGHT CONDITION - HOVER



YAW RATE MEASURED AT ONE SEC

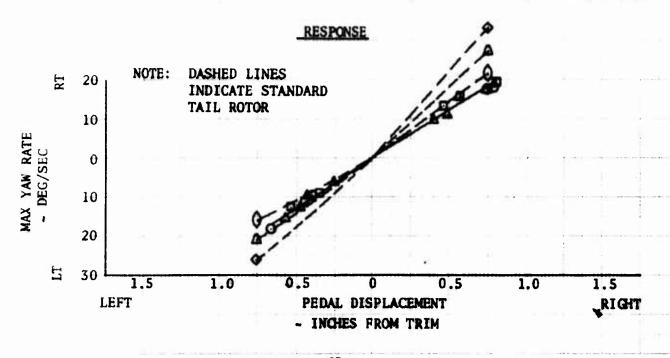
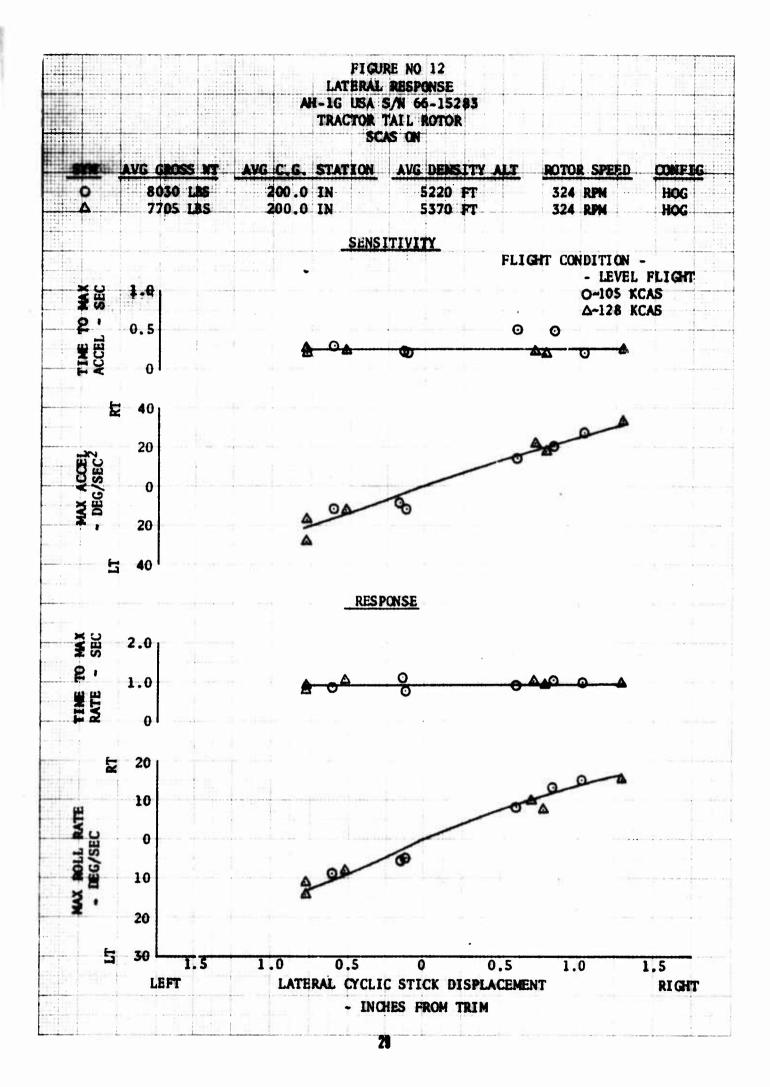
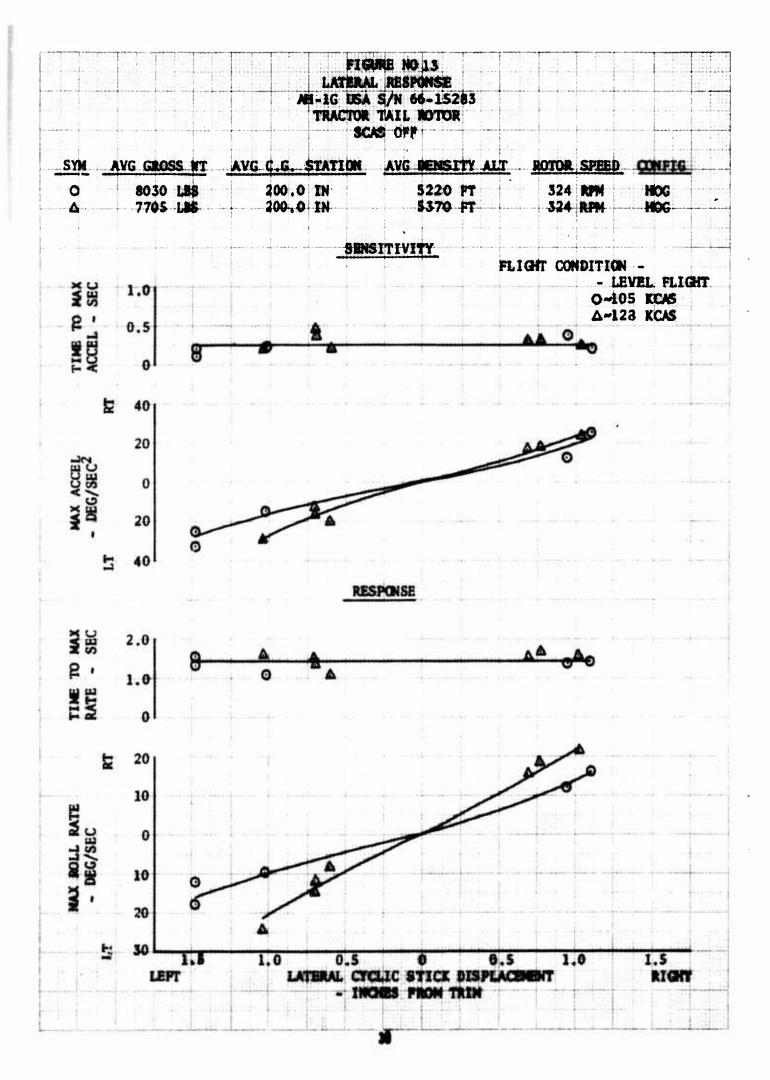
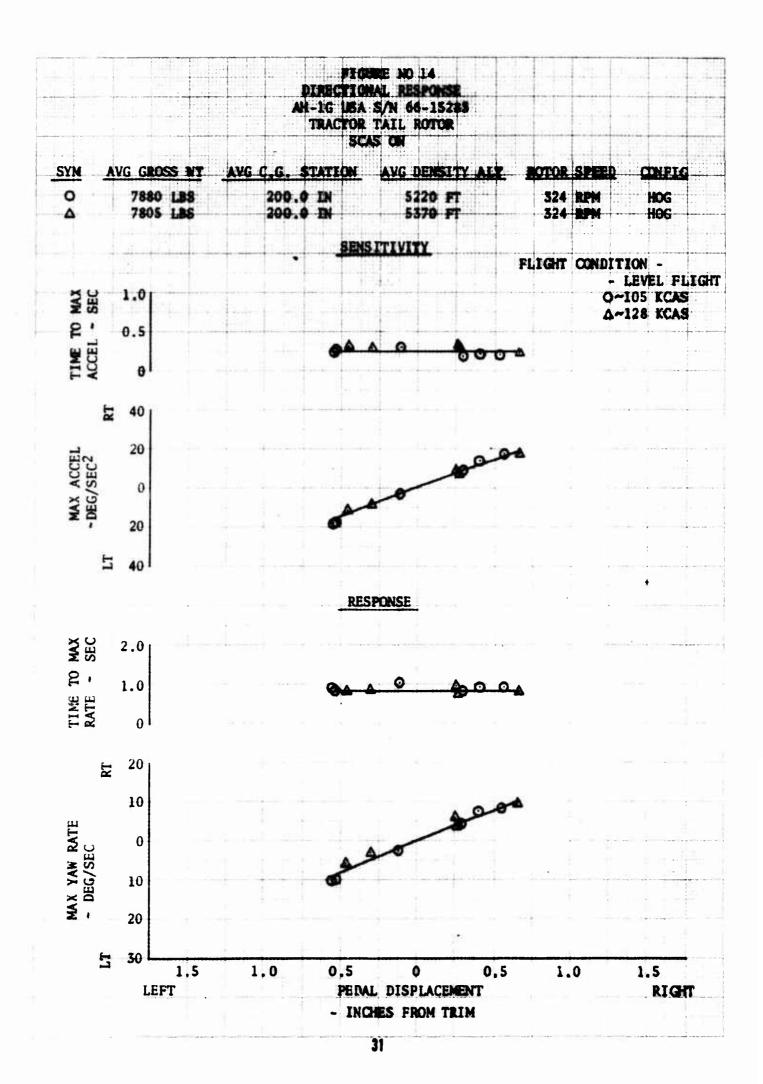
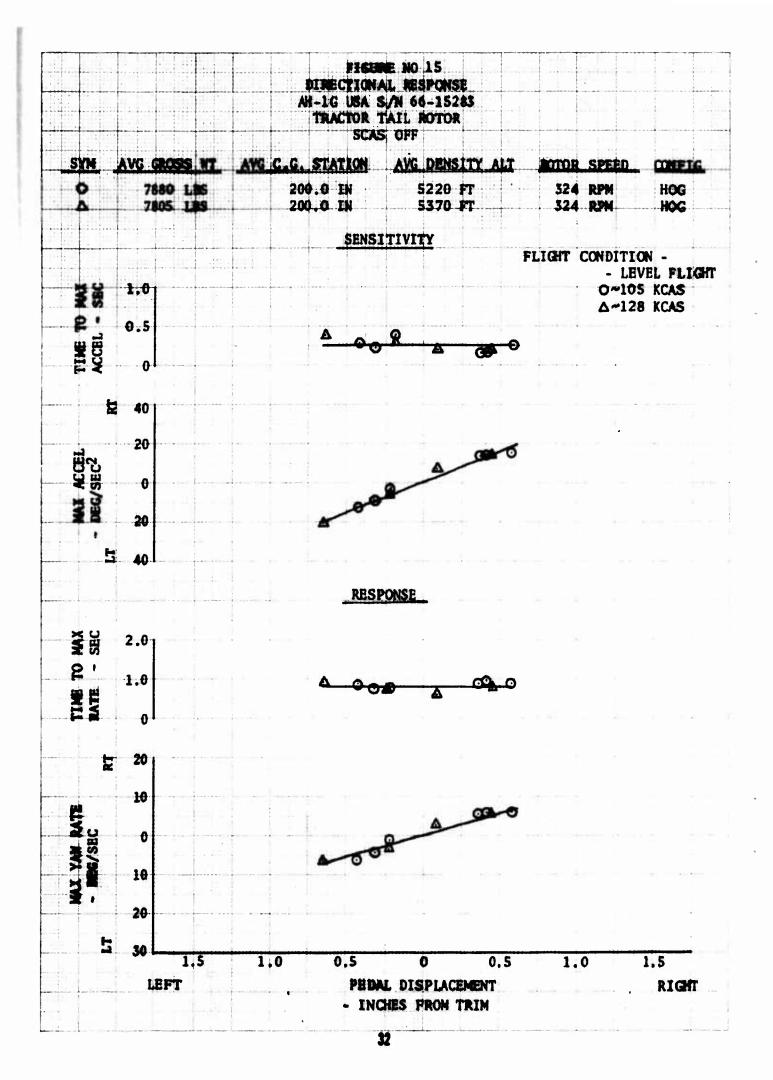


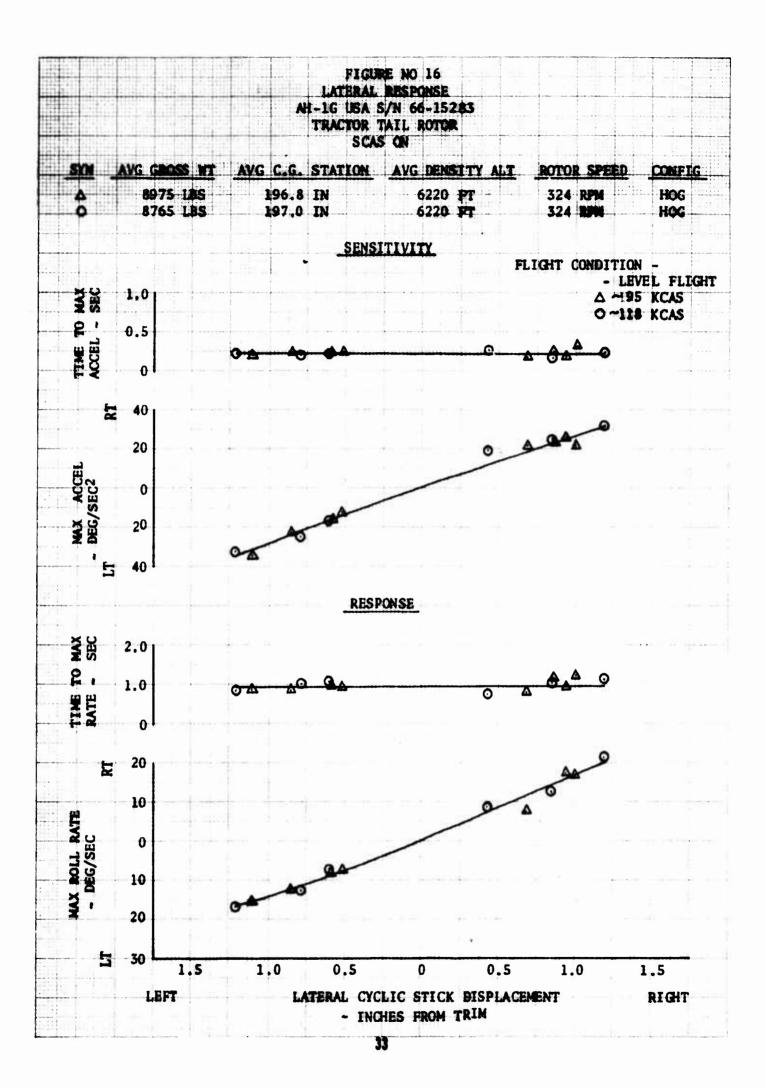
FIGURE NO 11 DIRECTIONAL RESPONSE AH-1G USA S/N 66-15283 TRACTOR TAIL ROTOR SCAS OFF AVG C.G. STATION AVG DENSITY ALT: ROTOR SPEED AVG GROSS NT CONFIG 8000 LAS 197.4 IN 4200 FT 324 RPM CLEAN 195.5 IN 5660 FT 8680 LIS 324 RPN CLEAN 7375 LBS 195.0 IN 10,660 FT 324 RPM CLEAN 7370 LAS 194.8 IN 5040 FT 324 RPM CLEAN 8170 LBS 195.2 IN 4120 FT 324 RPM CLEAN SENSITIVITY * Implies standard tail FLIGHT CONDITION - HOVER rotor configuration SEC 1.0 0.5 0 40 20 10 20 H 40 YAW RATE MEASURED AT ONE SEC RESPONSE NOTE: DASHED LINES 20 INDICATE STANDARD TAIL ROTOR 10 10 20 1.5 1.5 1.0 0.5 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 LEFT PEDAL DISPLACEMENT RIGHT - INCHES FROM TRIM 28











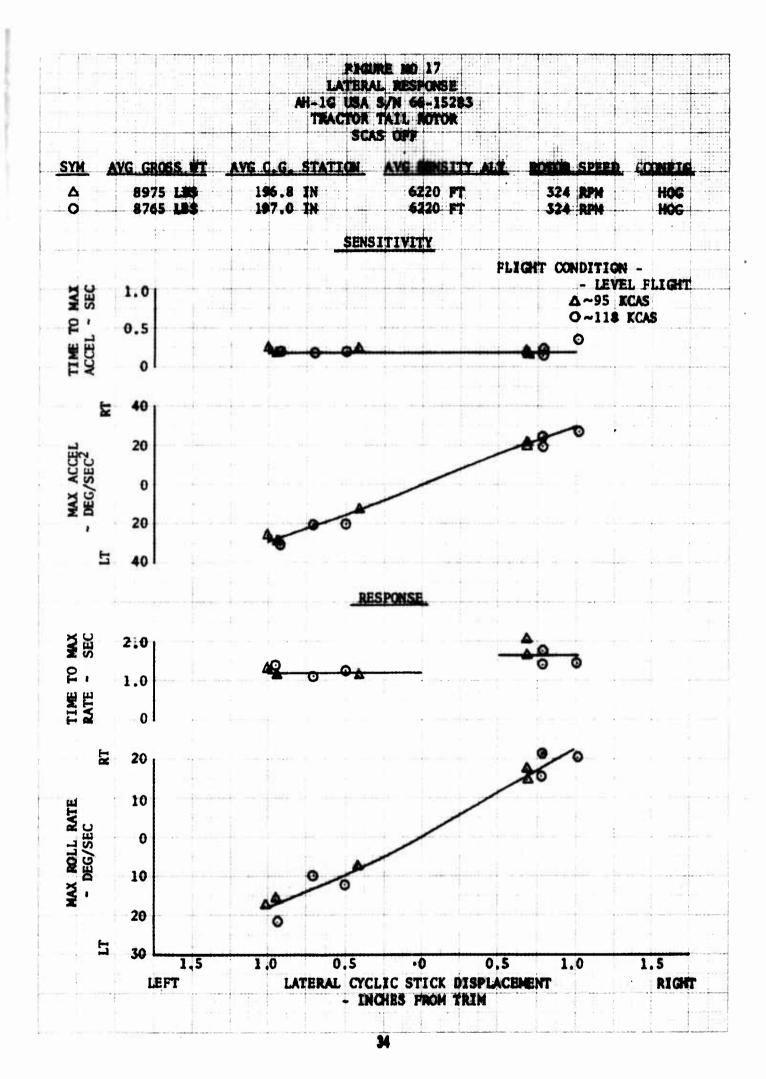
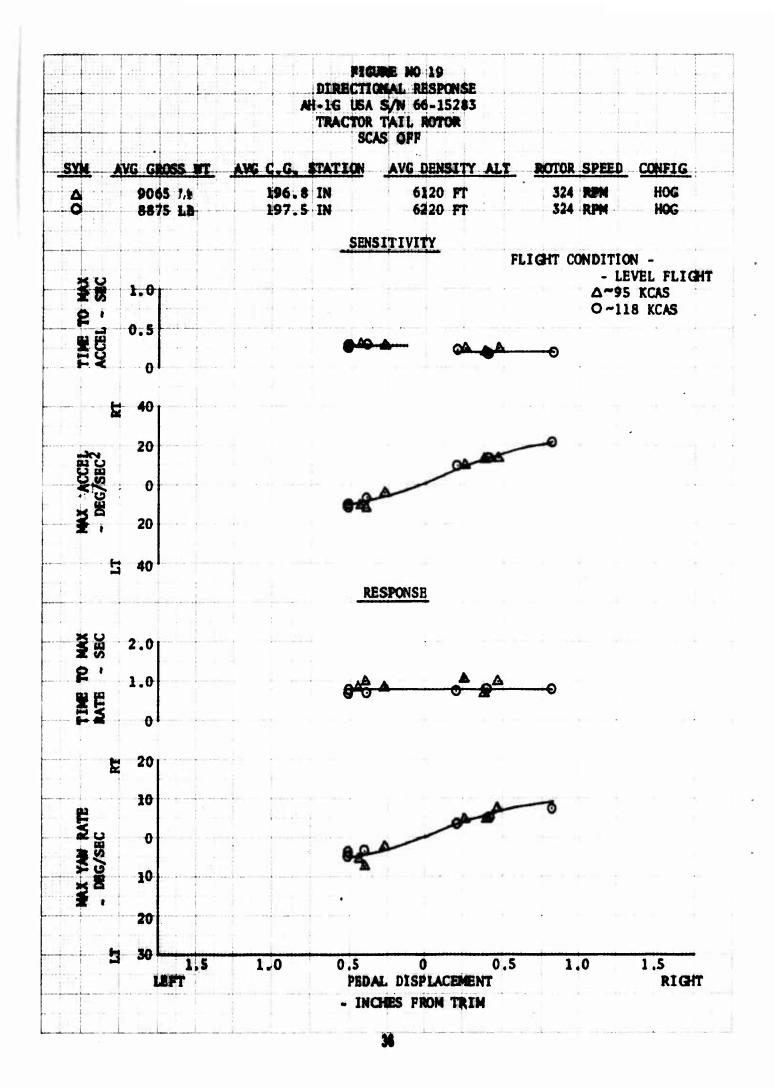
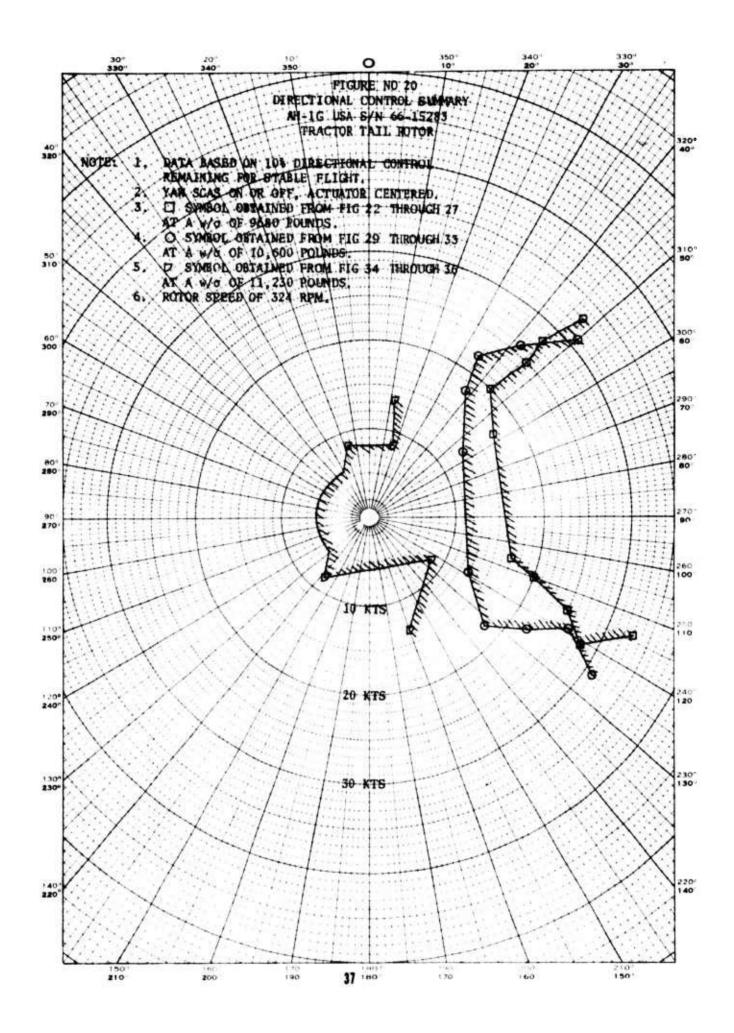
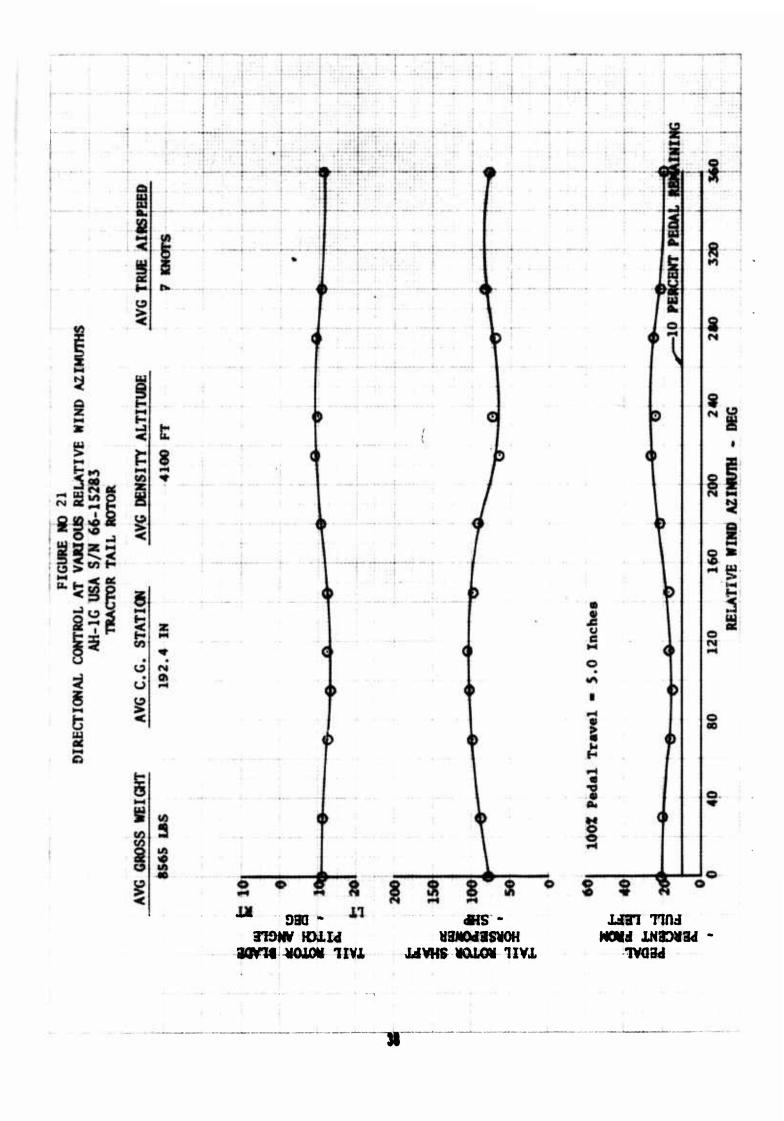


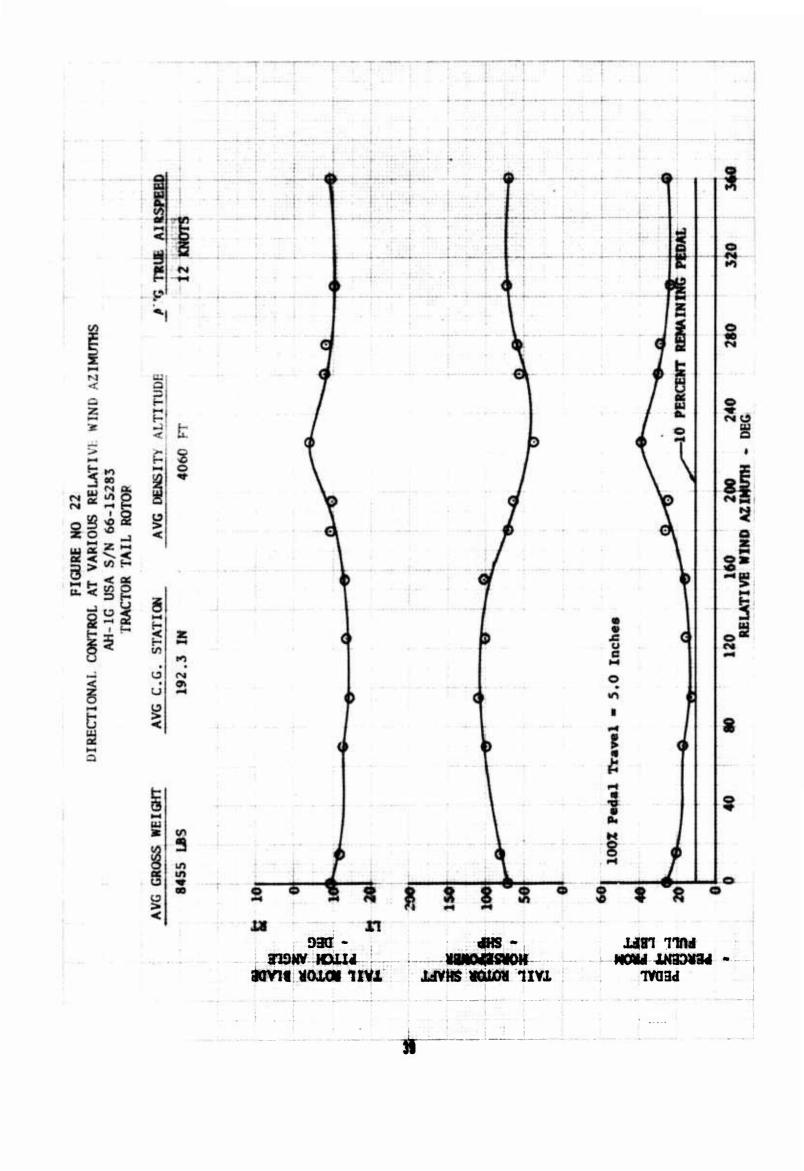
FIGURE NO 18 DIRECTIONAL RESPONSE AH-1G USA S/N 66-15283 TRACTOR TAIL MOTOR SCAS ON AVG GROSS WT AVG DENSITY ALT SYM AVG C.G. STATION 9065 LB 196.8 IN 6120 FT 324 RPM HOG Δ 0 197.5 IN 6220 PT 8875 -LB 324 RPM HOG SENSITIVITY FLIGHT CONDITION -MAX - LEVEL FLIGHT 1.0 △-95 KCAS TIME TO A 0~118 KCAS 0.5 0 40 RT MAX ACCEL DEG/SEC² 20 0 20 40 L RESPONSE MAX 2.0 50. 1.0 0 20 R 10 MAX YAW RATE - DEG/SEC 0 10 20 LT 30 1.0 0,5 0.5 1.0 1,5 LEFT PEDAL DISPLACEMENT INCHES FROM TRIM RIGHT

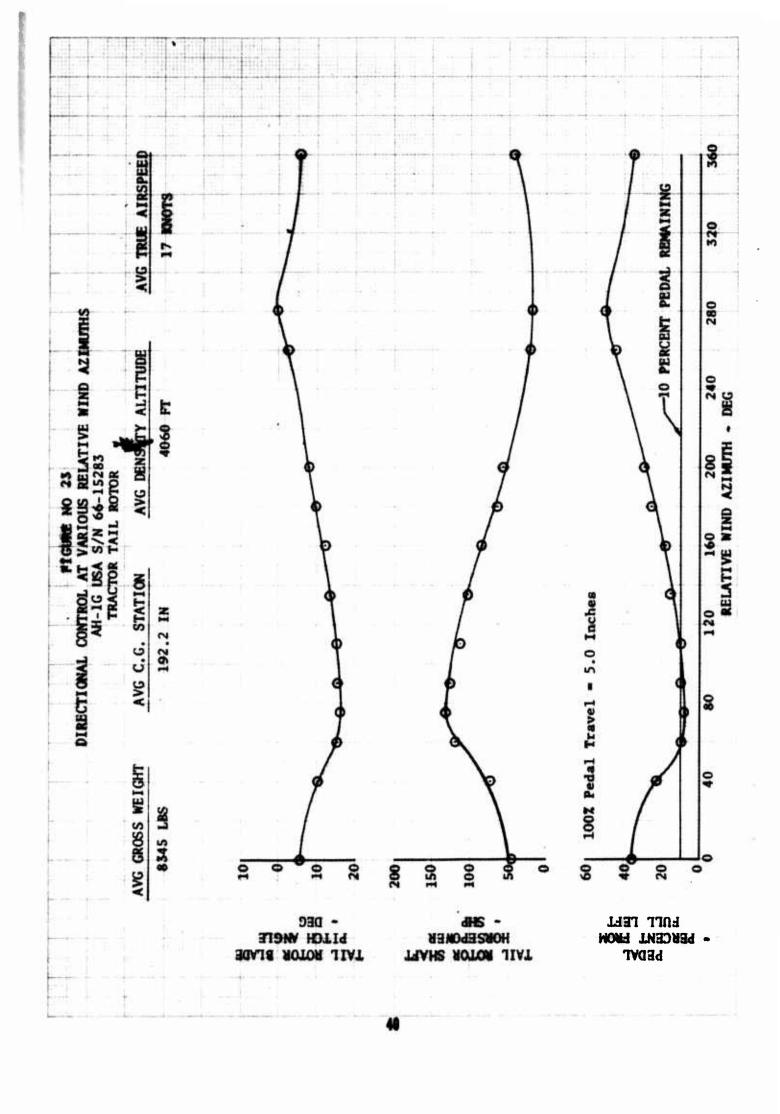
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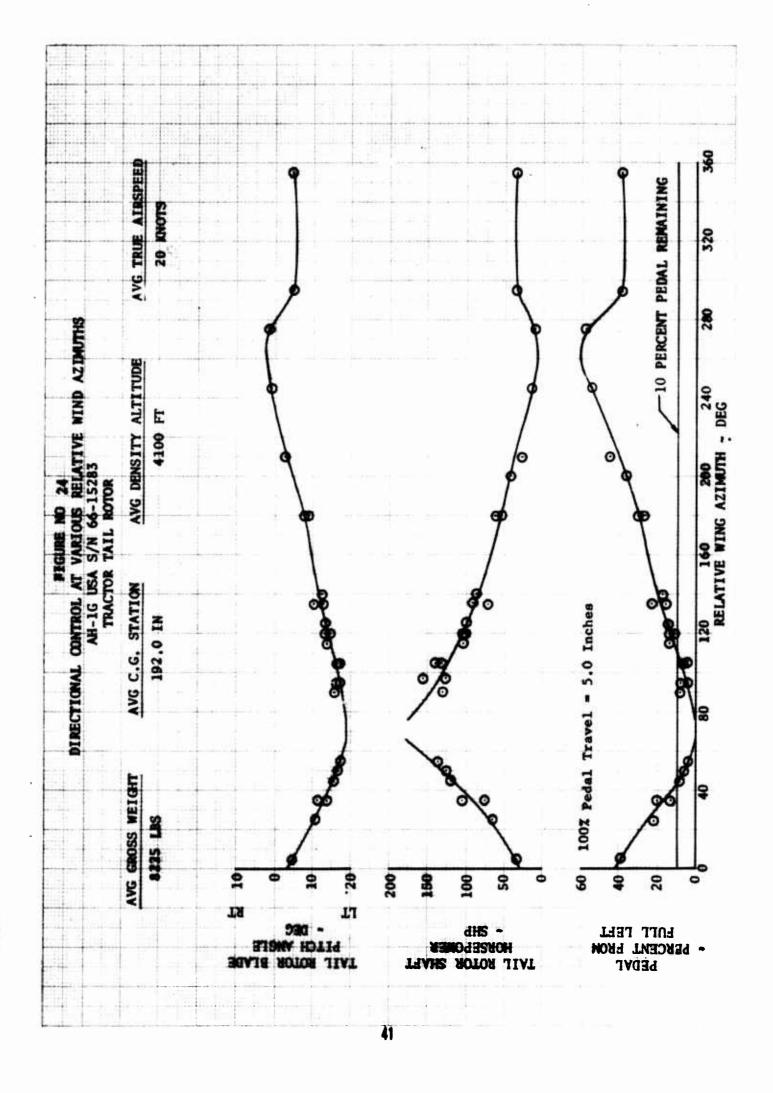


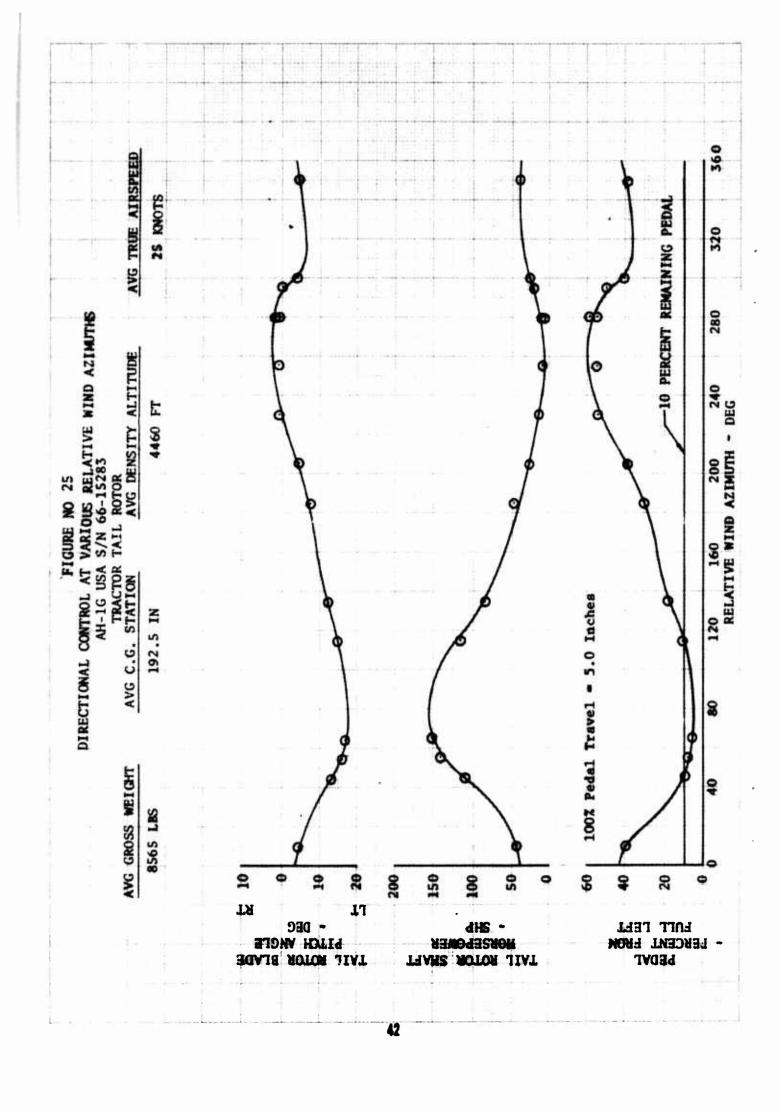


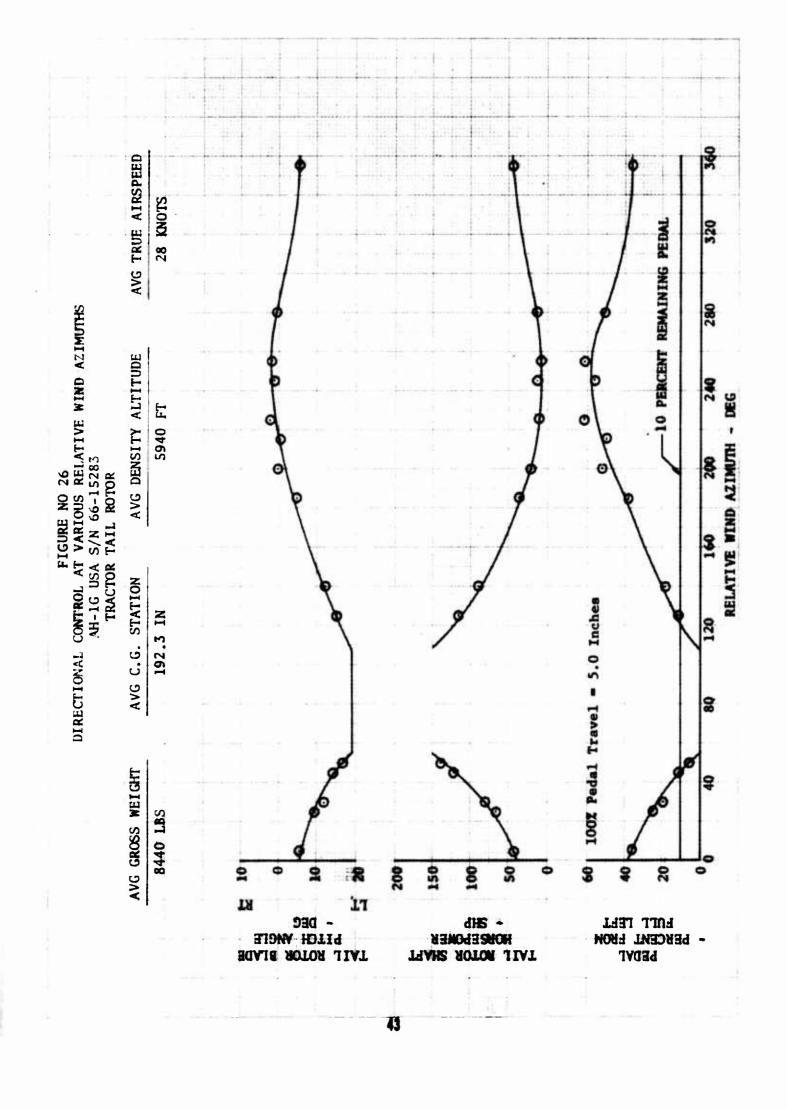


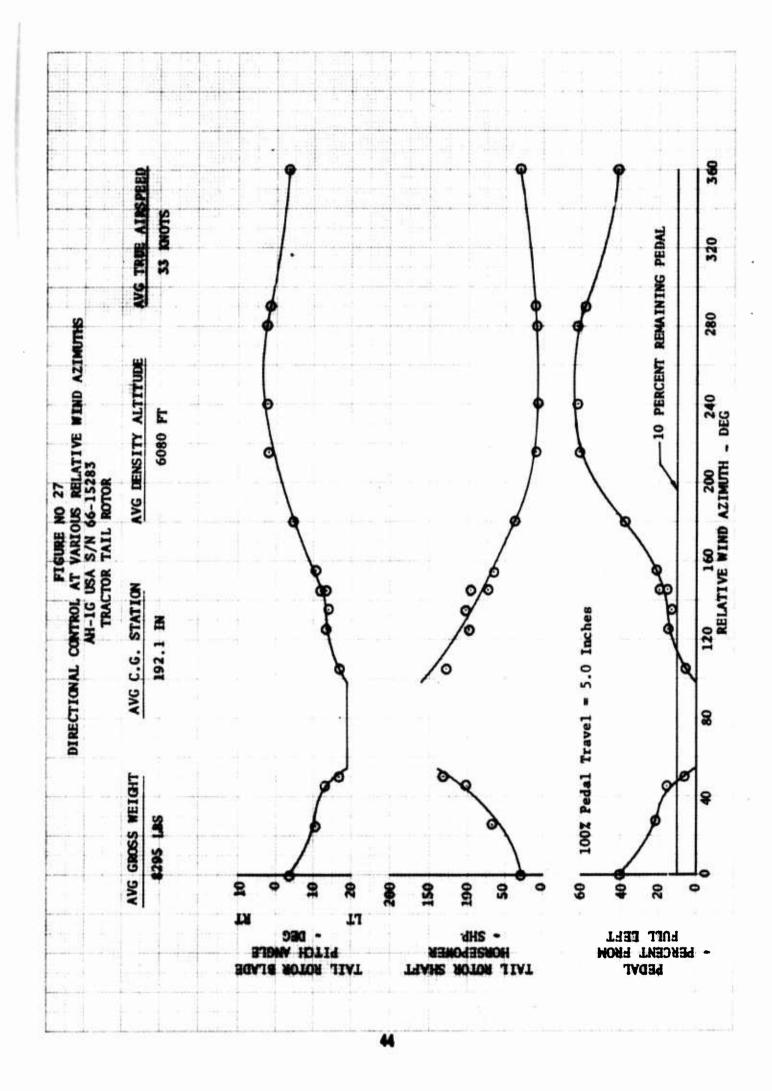


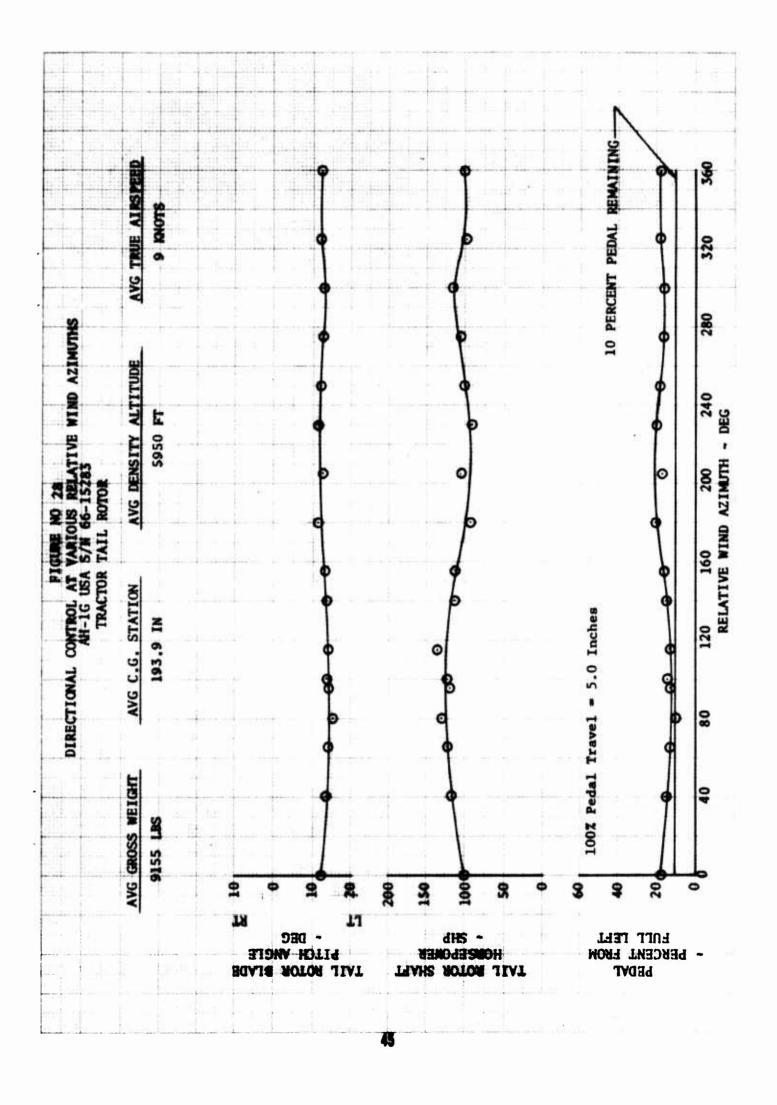


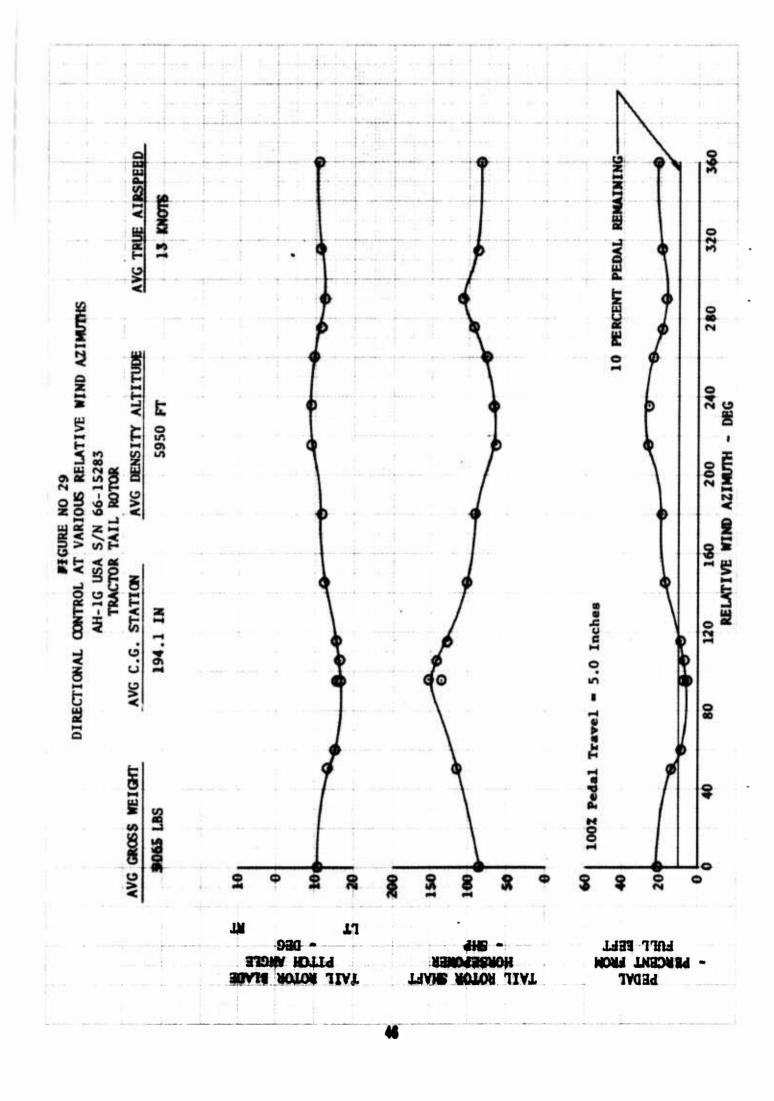


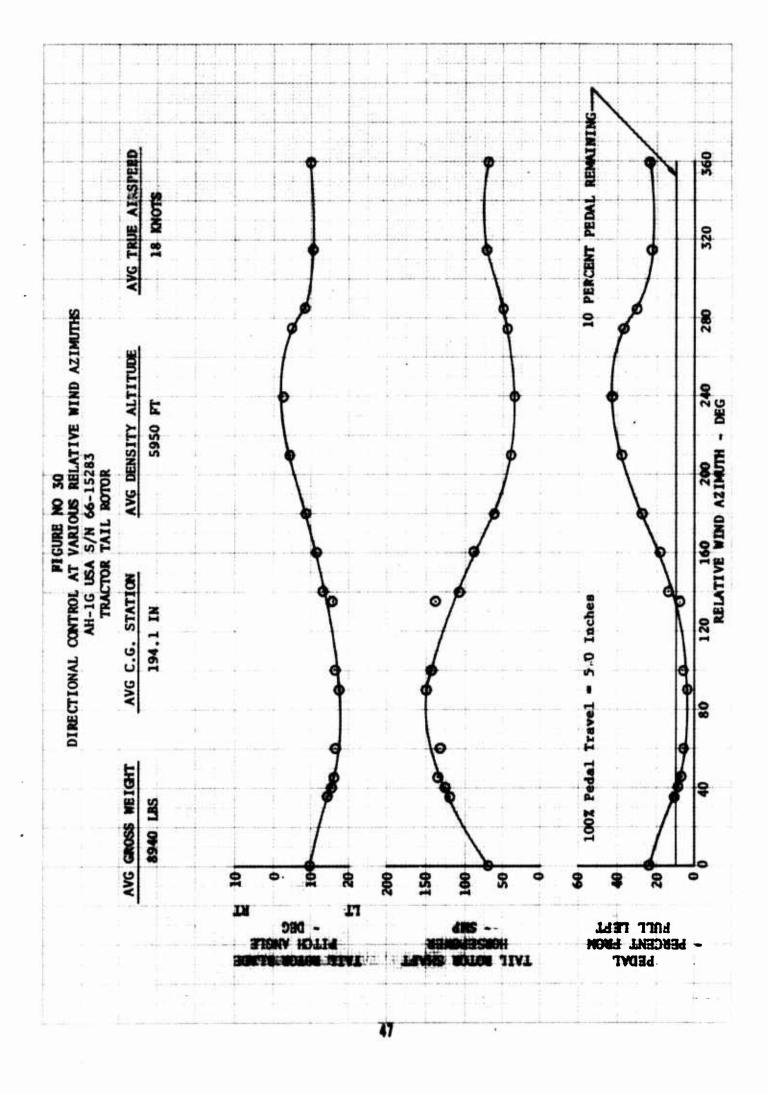


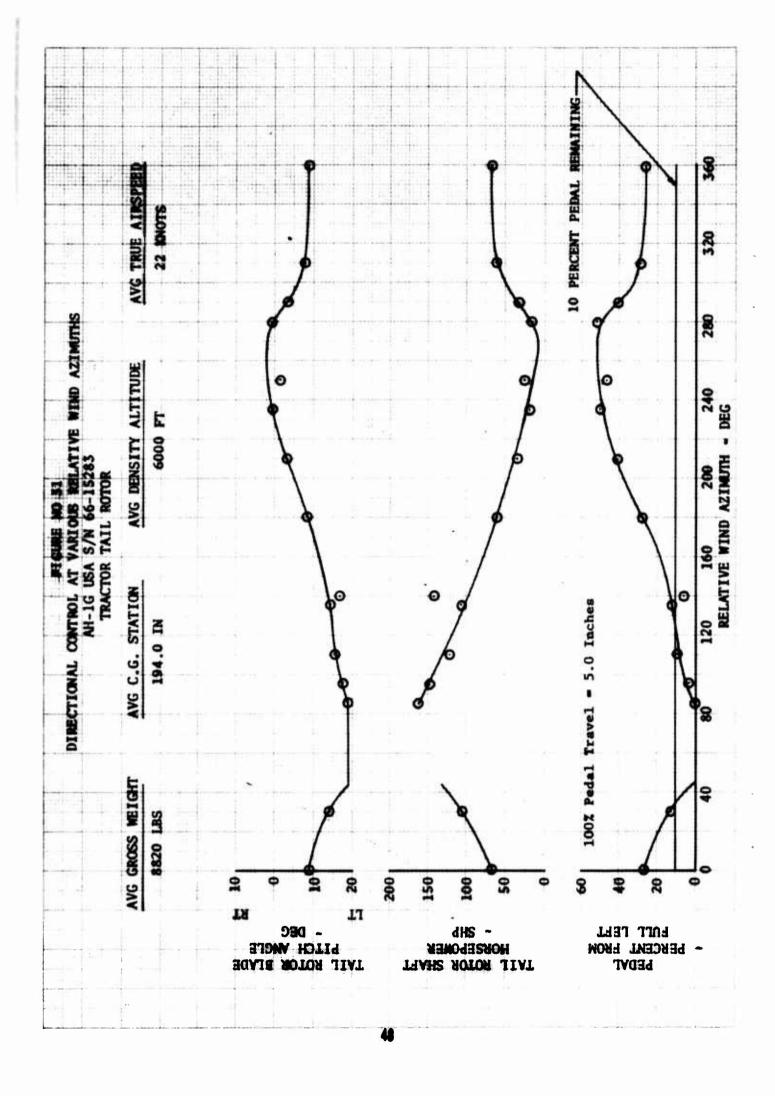


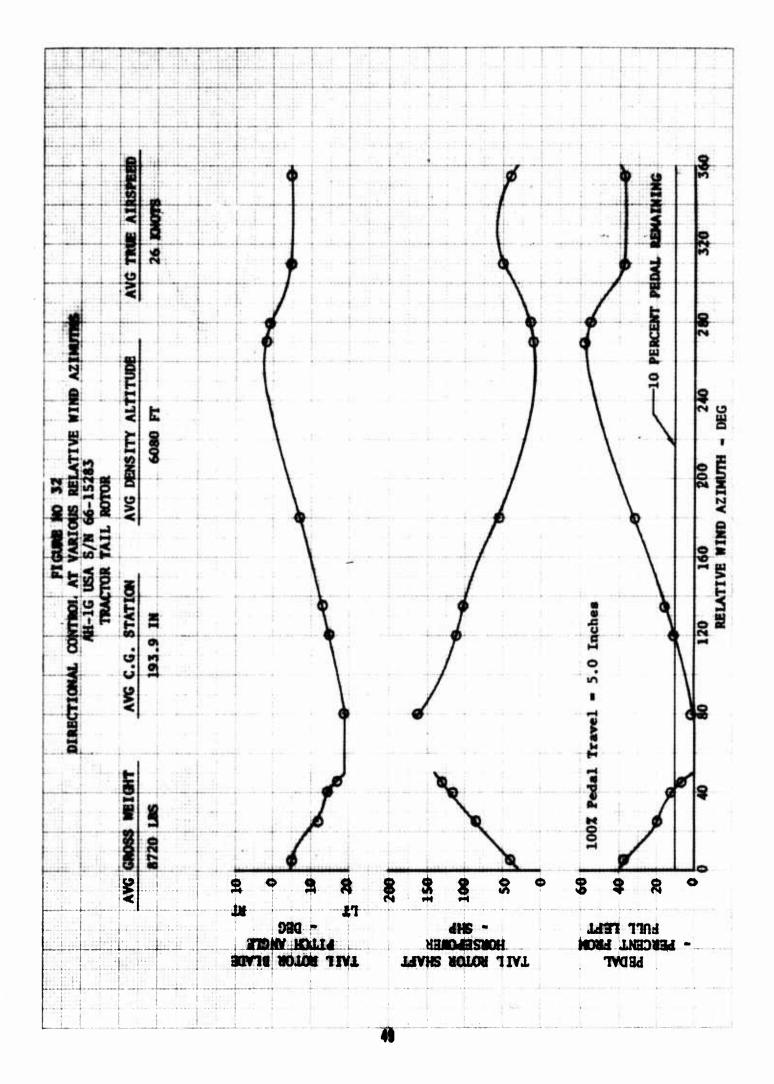


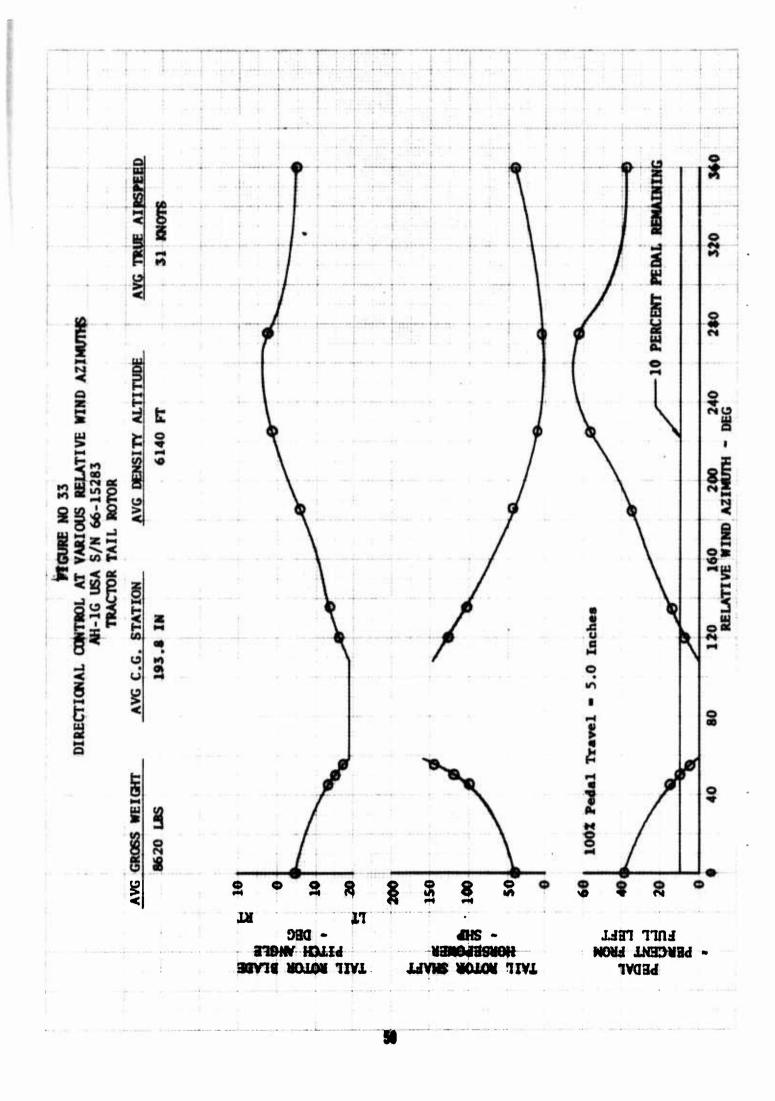


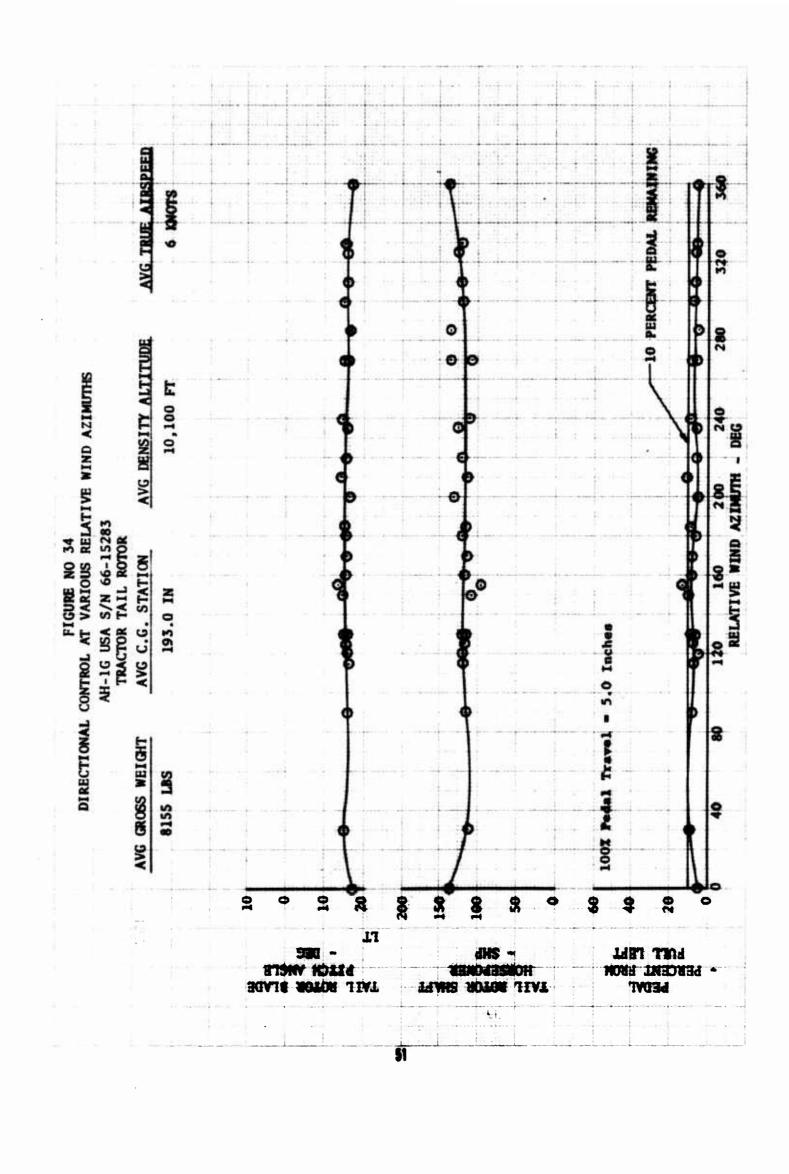


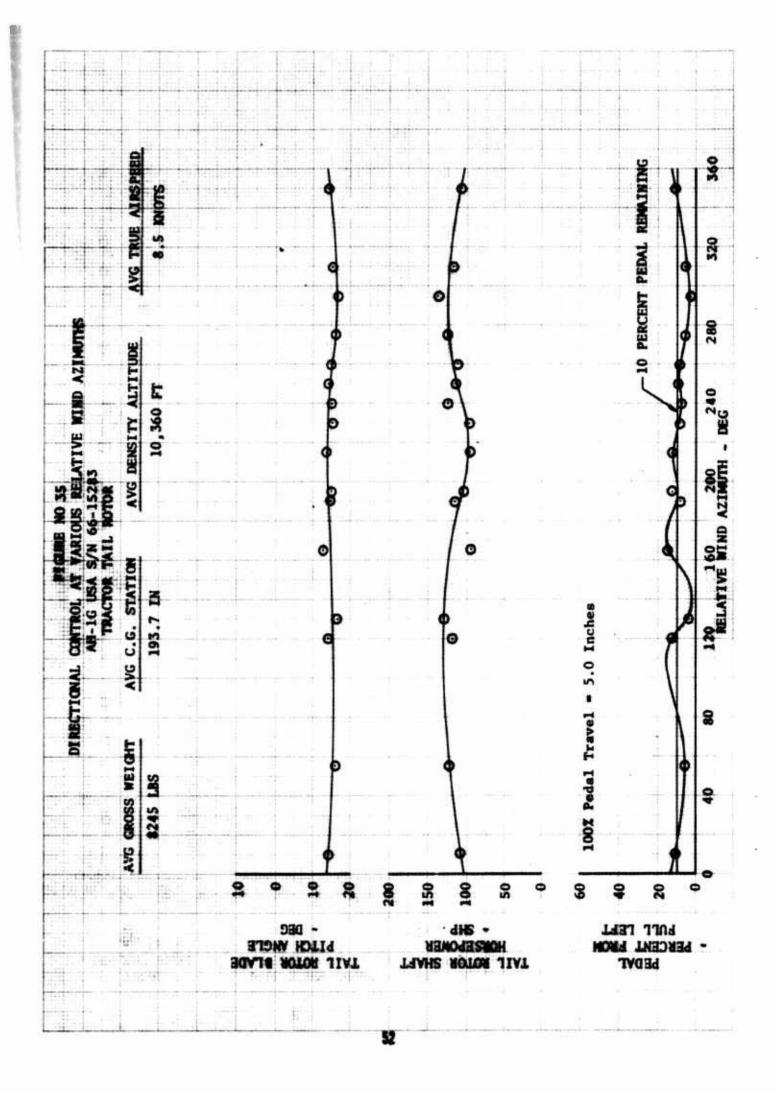


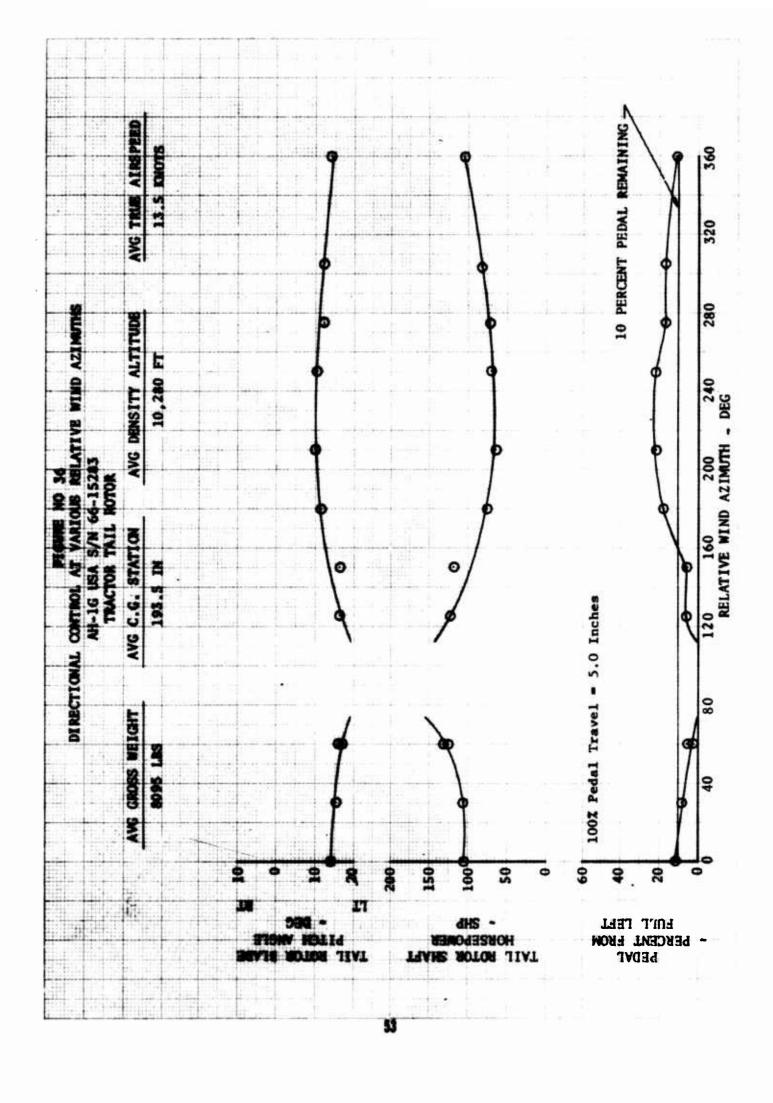


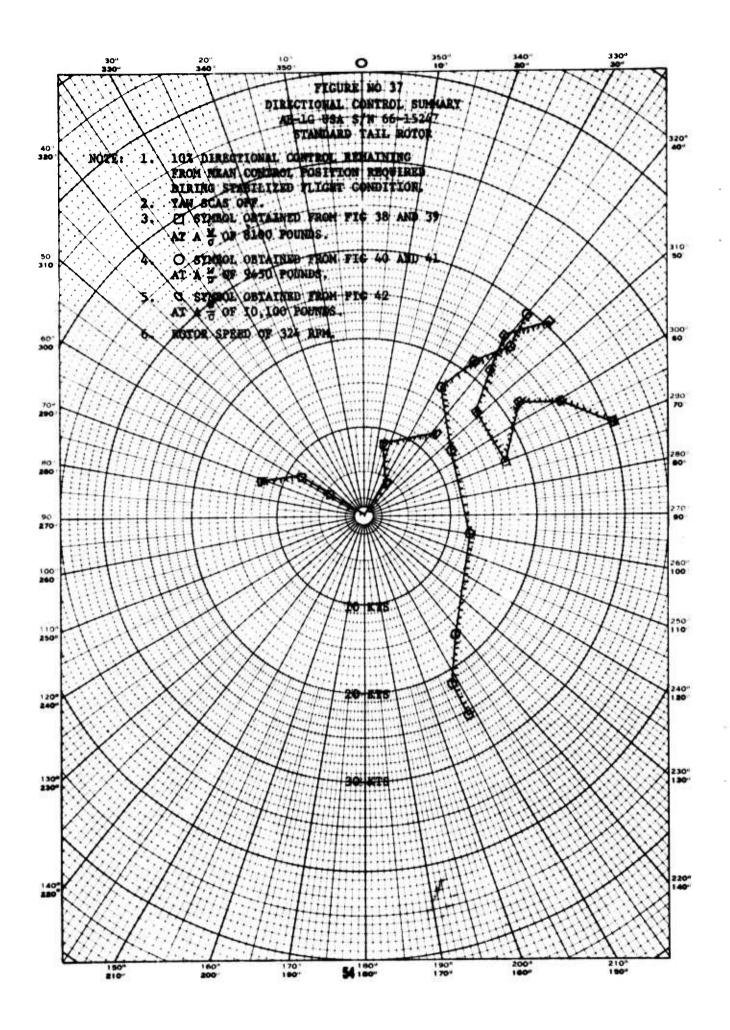


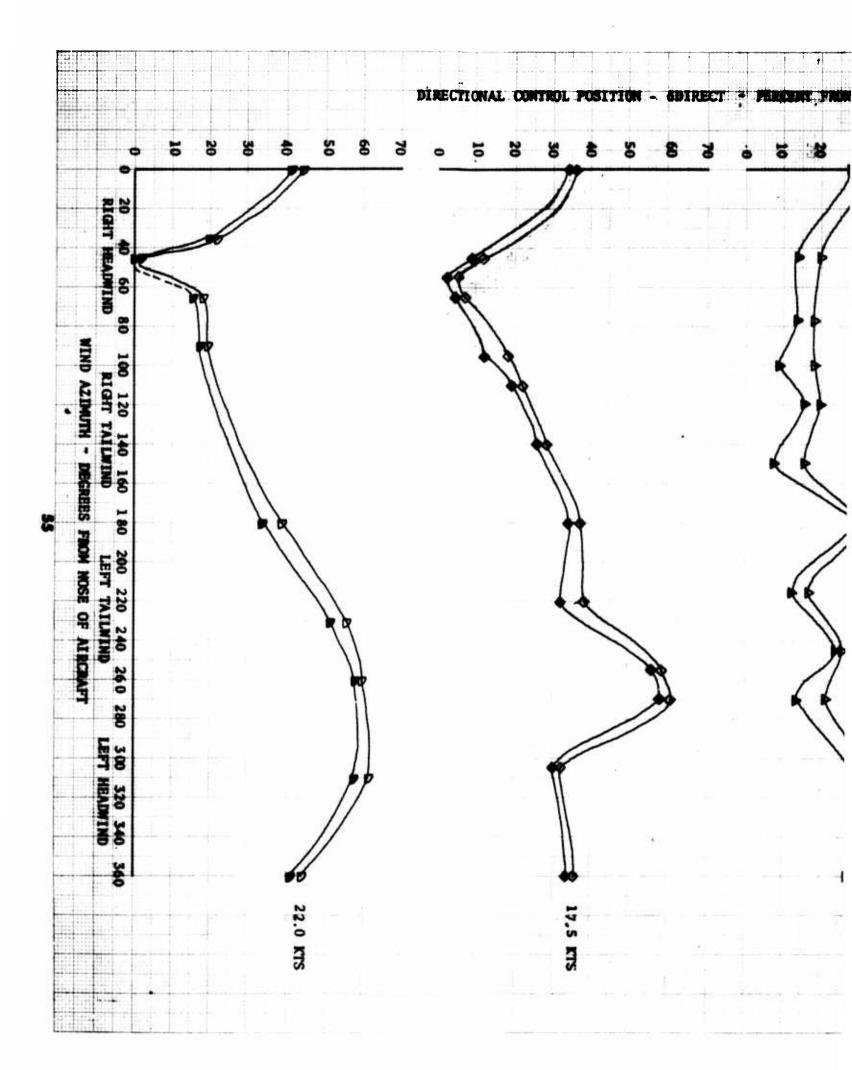


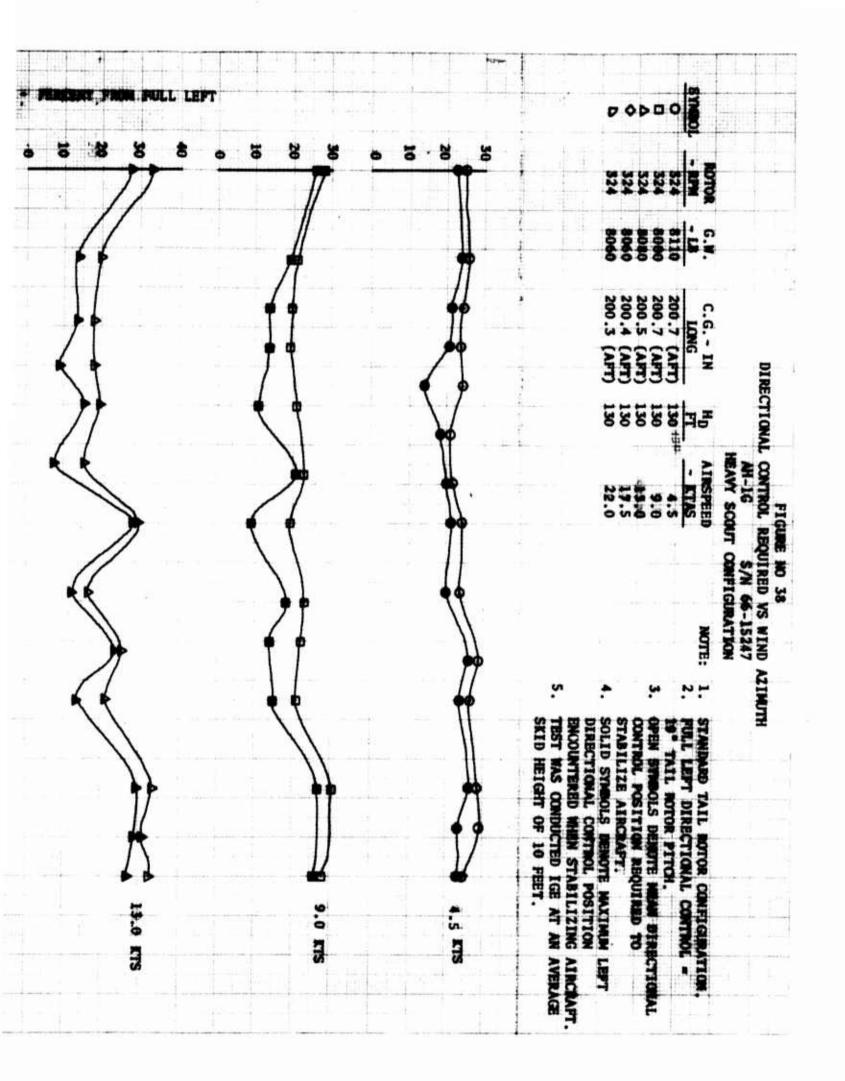






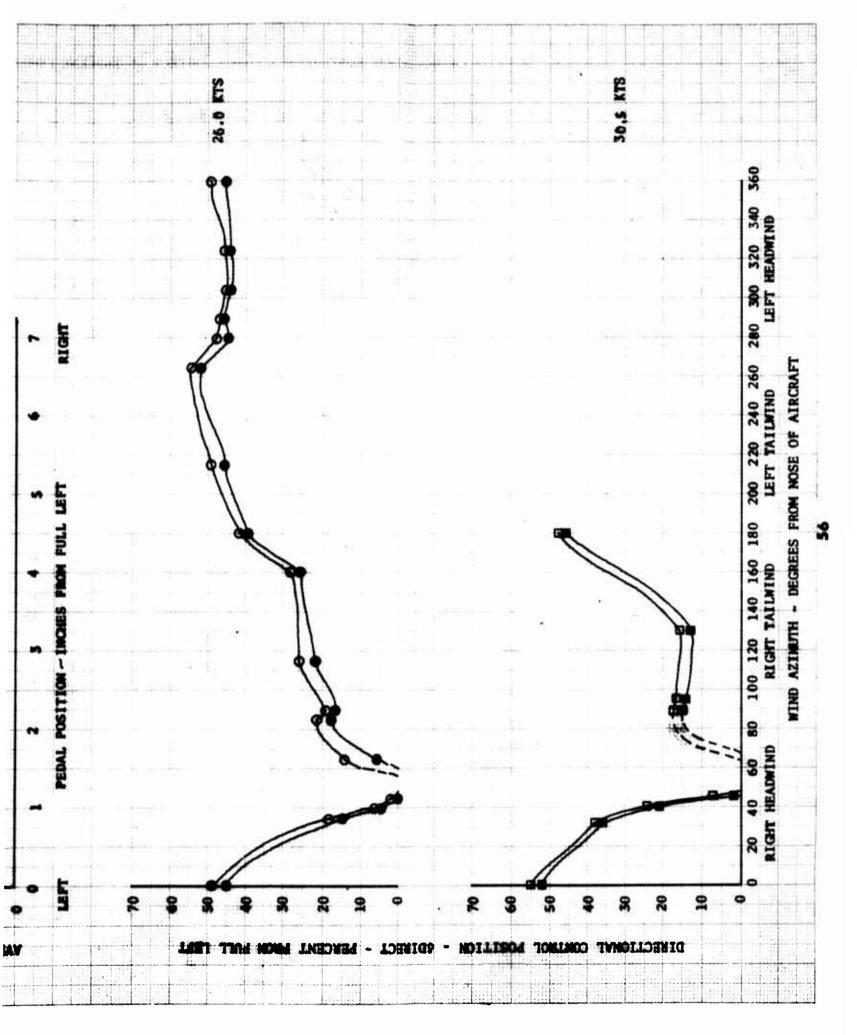




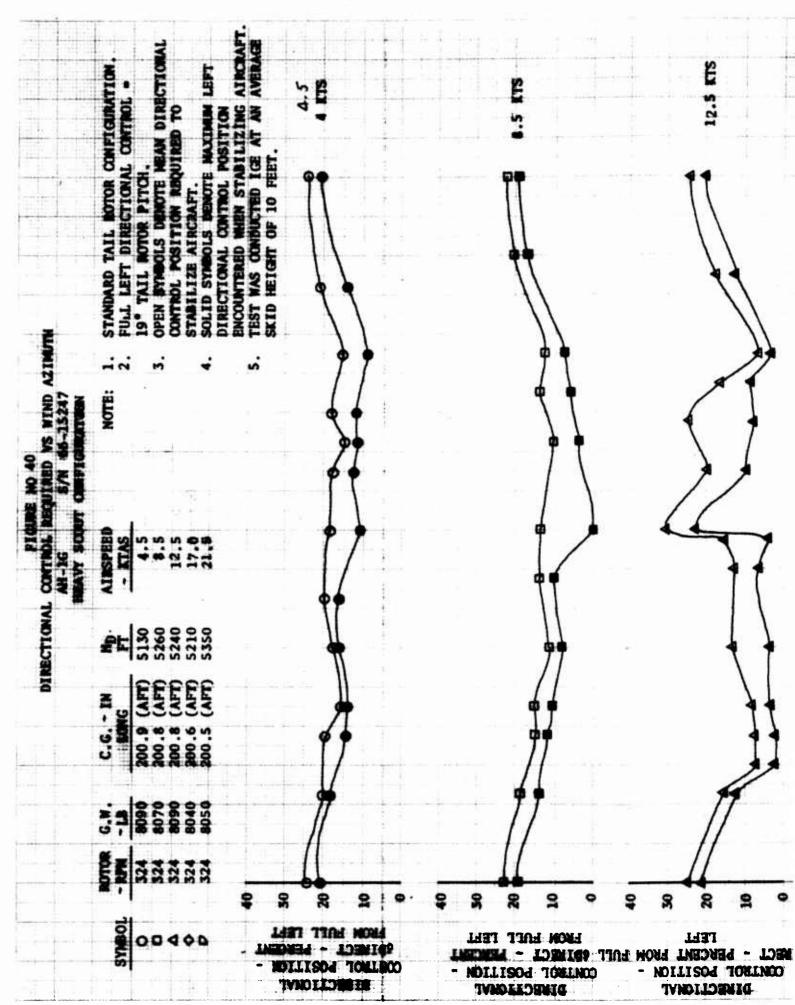


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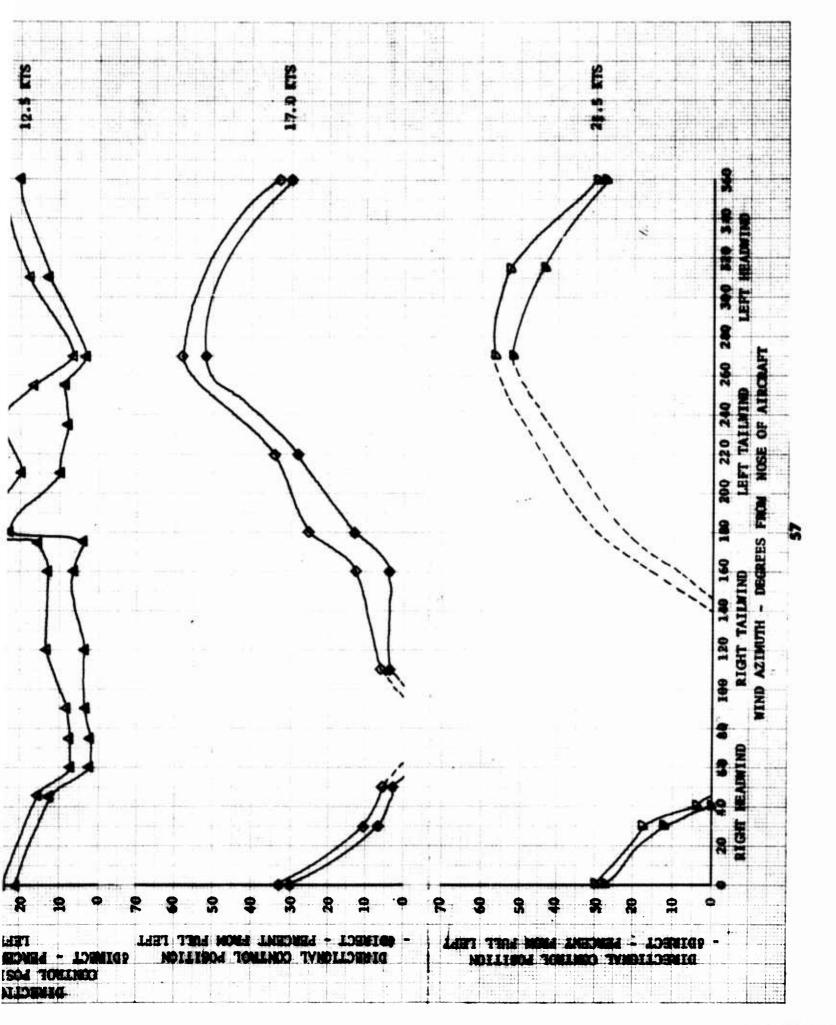




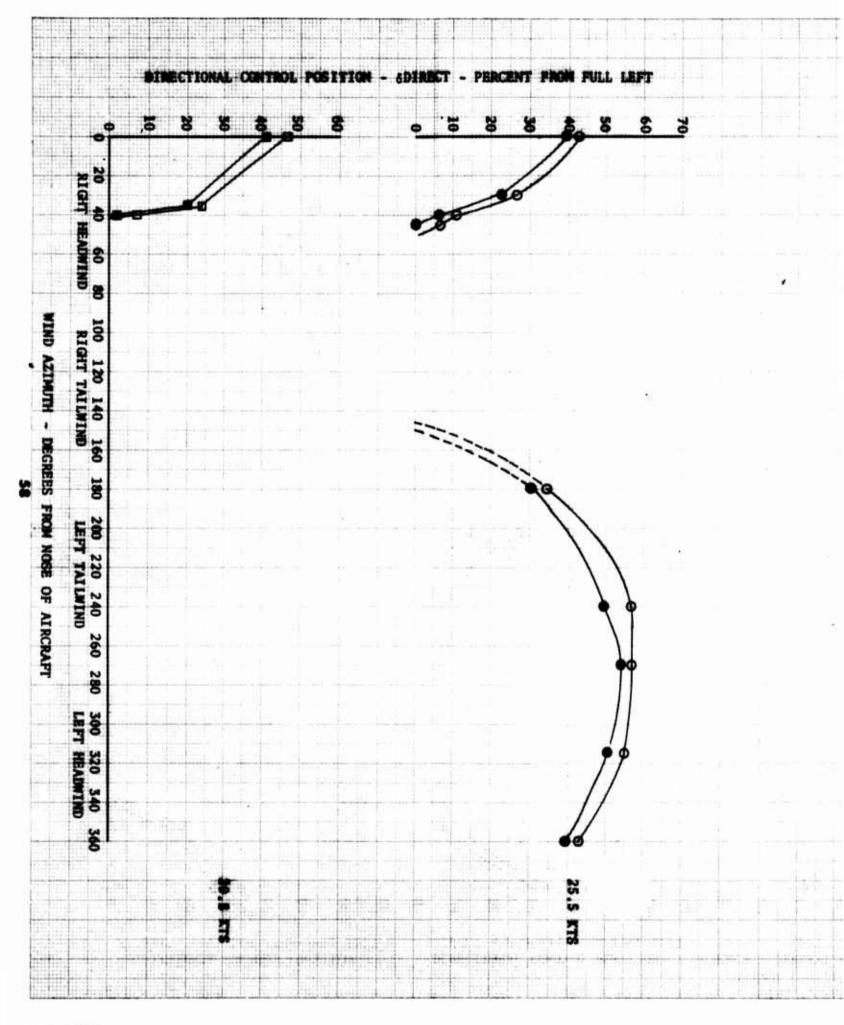










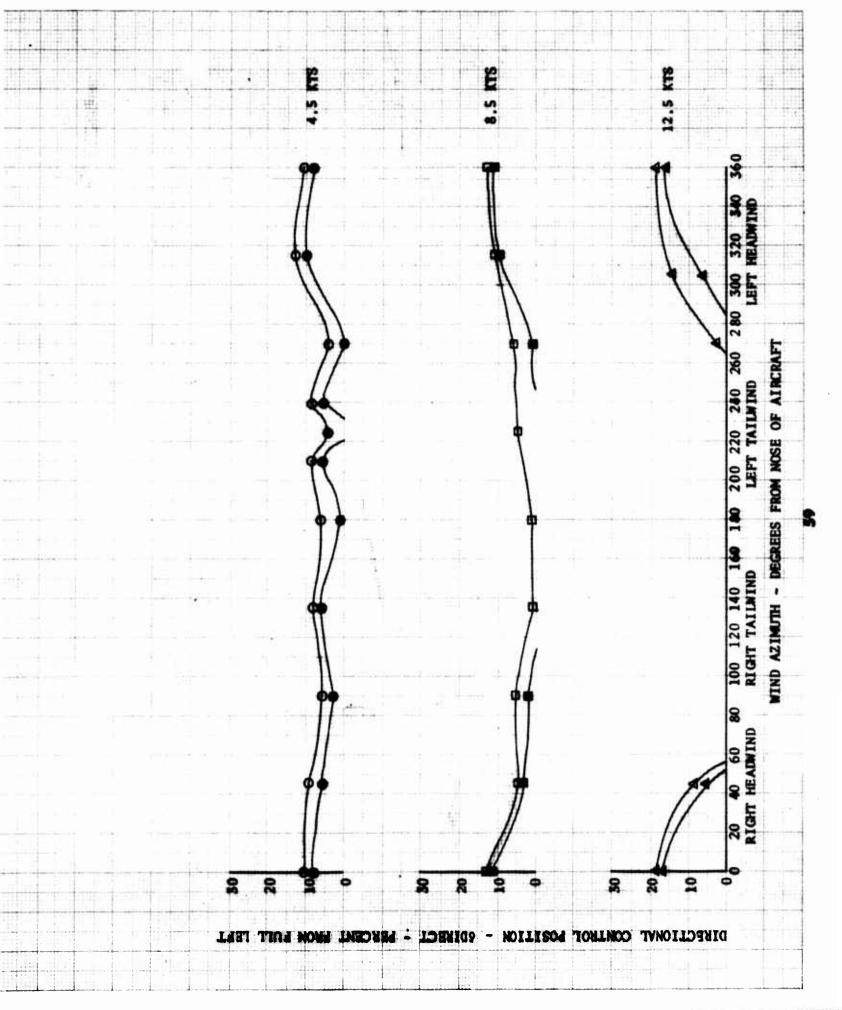


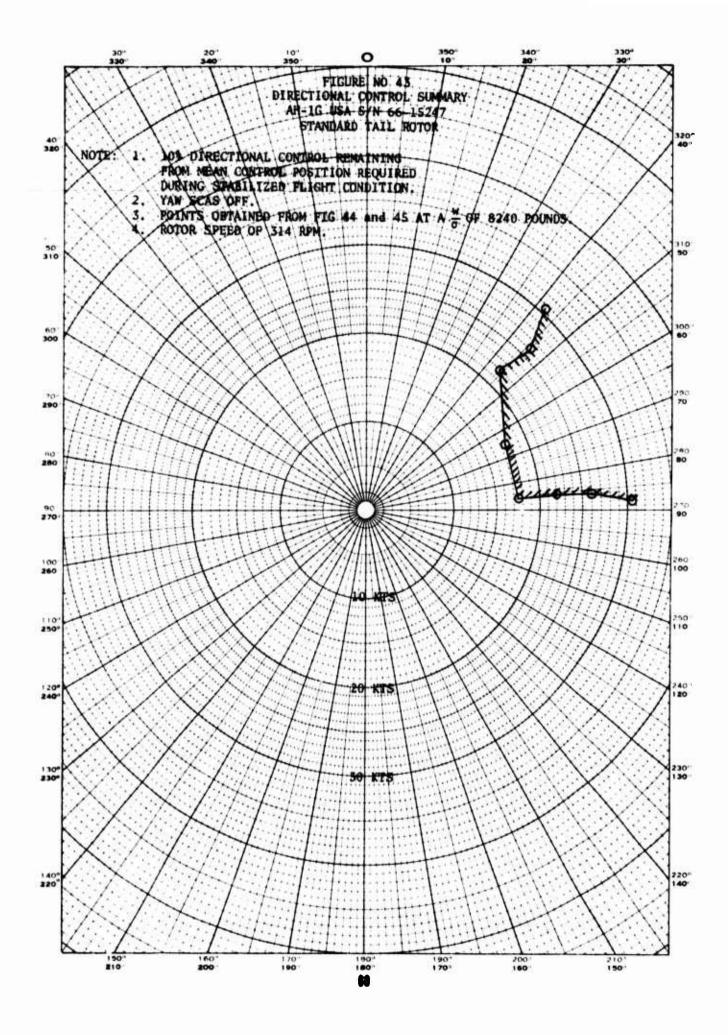


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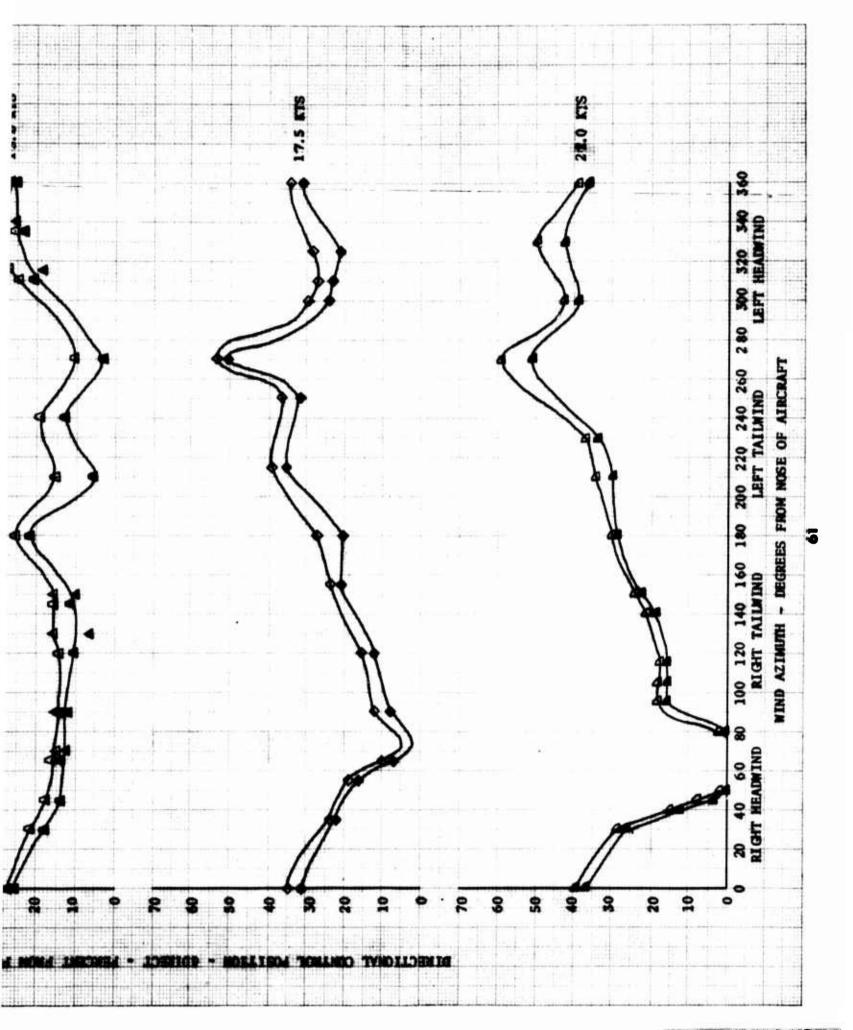
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| | STANDARD TAIL ROTOR CONFIGURATION, FULL LEFT DIRECTIONAL CONTROL = 19° TAIL ROTOR PITCH. OPEN SYMBOLS DENOTE MEAN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL POSITION REQUIRED TO STABILIZE RIRCRAFT. SOLID SYMBOLS DENOTE MAXIMUM LEFT DIRECTIONAL CONTROL POSITION ENCOUNTERED MEEN STABILIZING AINCRAF TEST WAS CONDUCTED ICE AT AN AVENAGE SKID HEIGHT OF 10 FEET. | | | 13. 19 ms |
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PIGUME NO 45 DIRECTIONAL CONTROL REQUIRED VS WIND AZIMUTH AN-1G S/N 46-15247 HEAVY SCOUT CONFIGURATION

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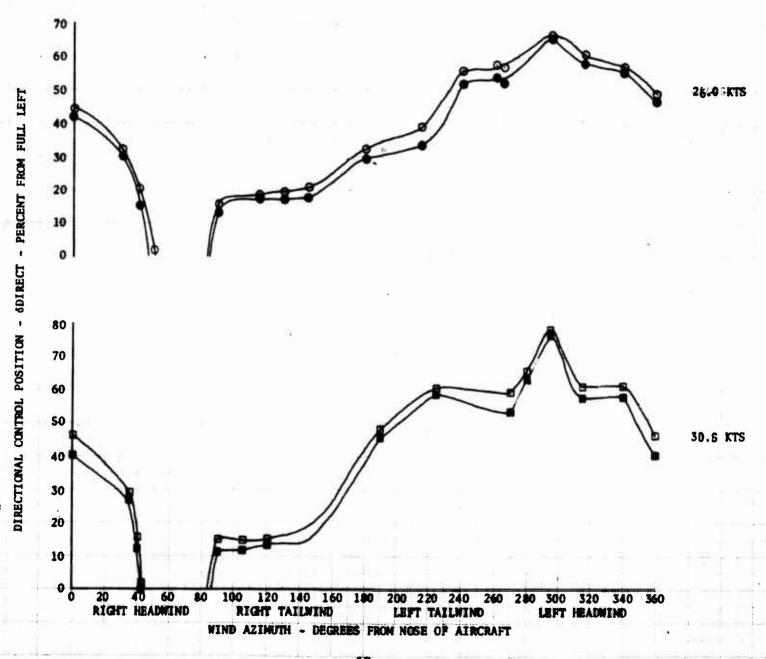
NOTE: STEENBARD TAIL ROTOR CONFIGURATION

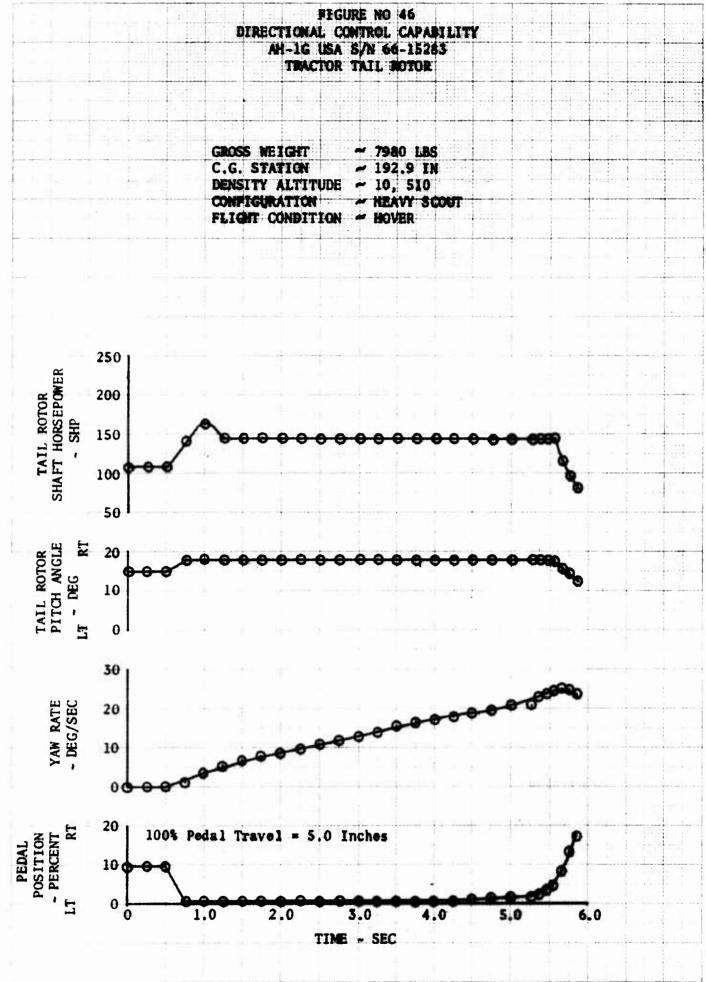
2. FULL LEFT DIRECTIONAL CONTROL = 19° TAIL ROTOR PITCH.

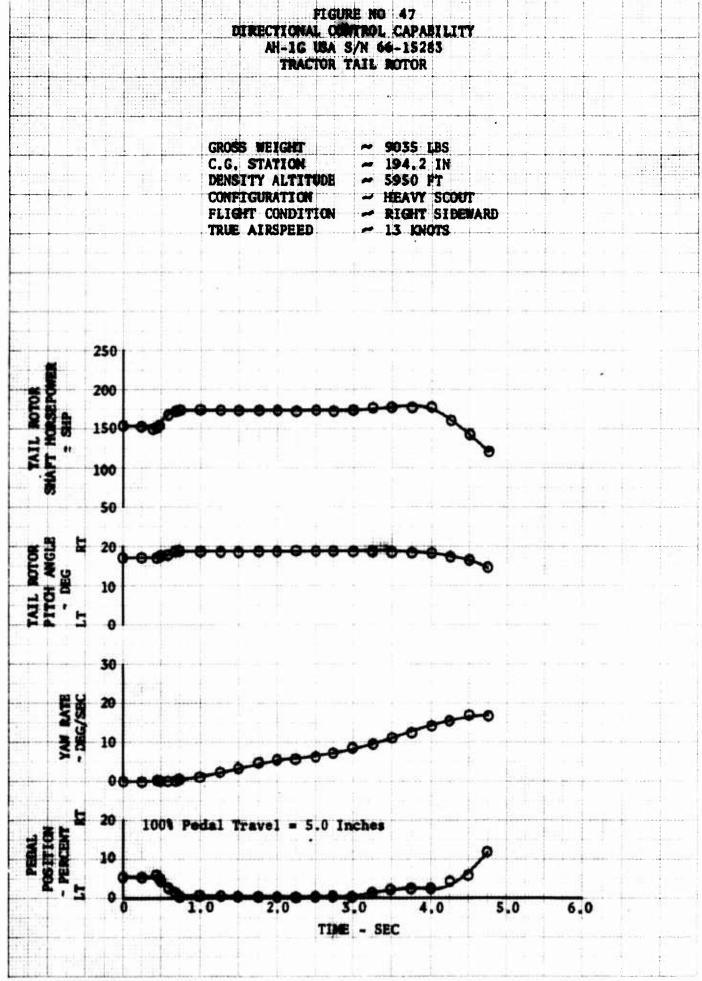
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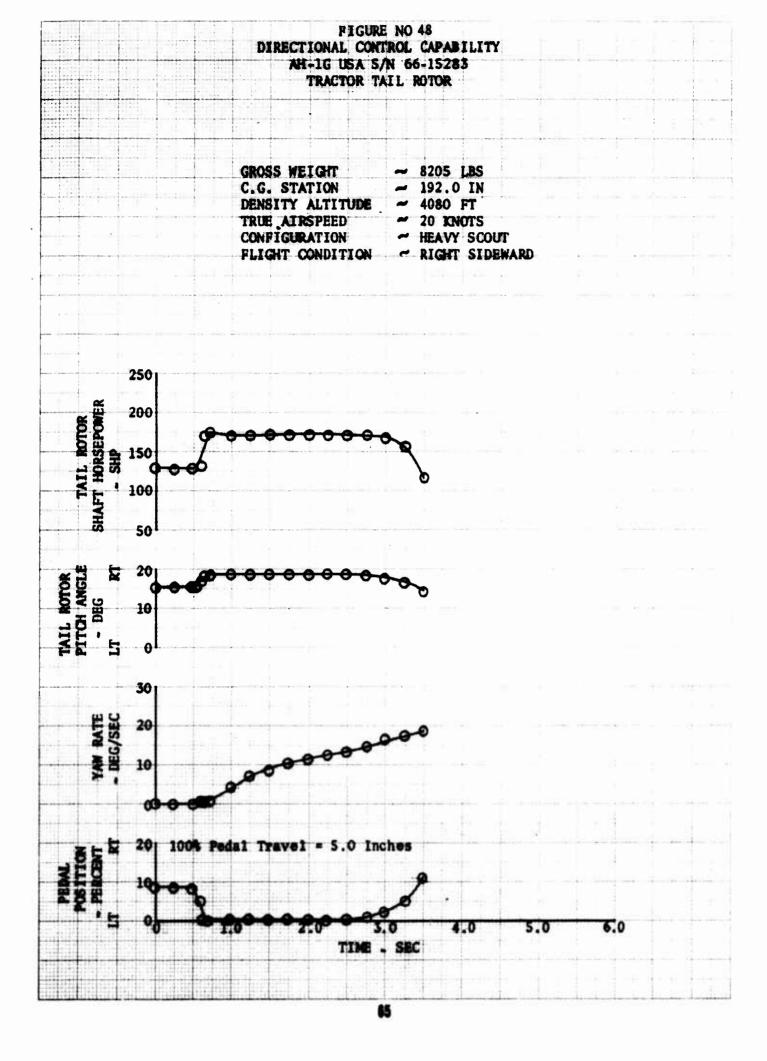
4. SOLID SYMBOLS DENOTE MAXIMUM LEFT DIRECTIONAL CONTROL POSSUREON ENCOUNTERED NAMES STABILIZING AIRCRAFT.

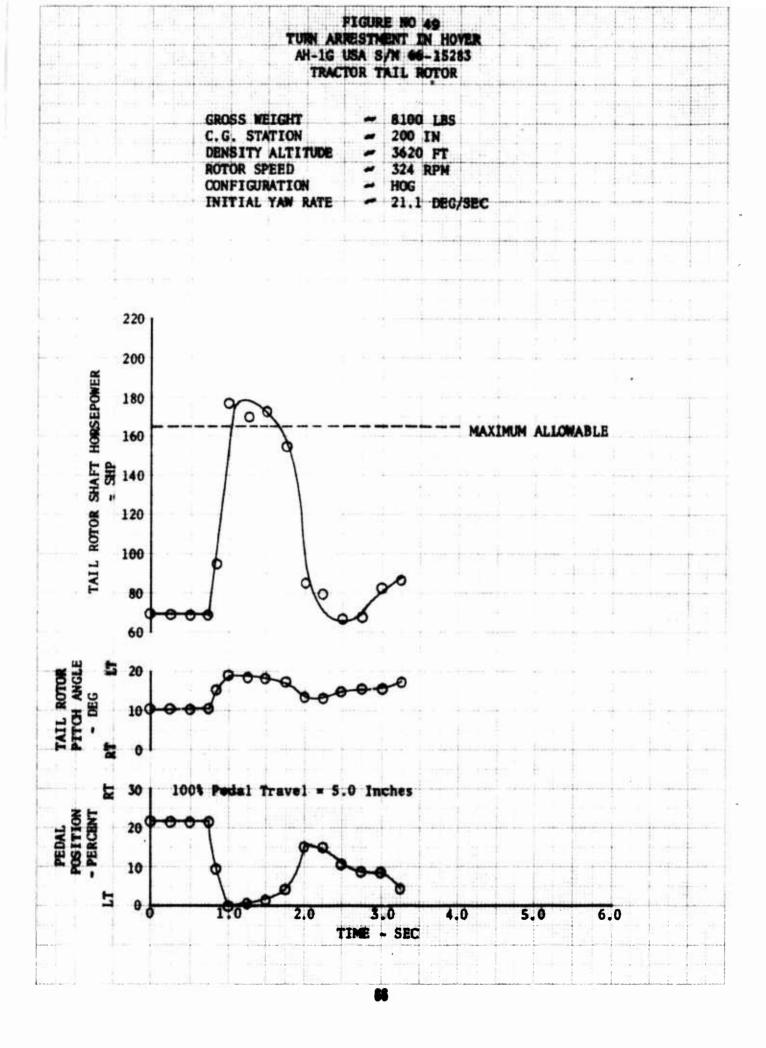
5. TEST WAS CONDUCTED FOR AT AN AVERAGE SKID HEIGHT OF 10 FEET.

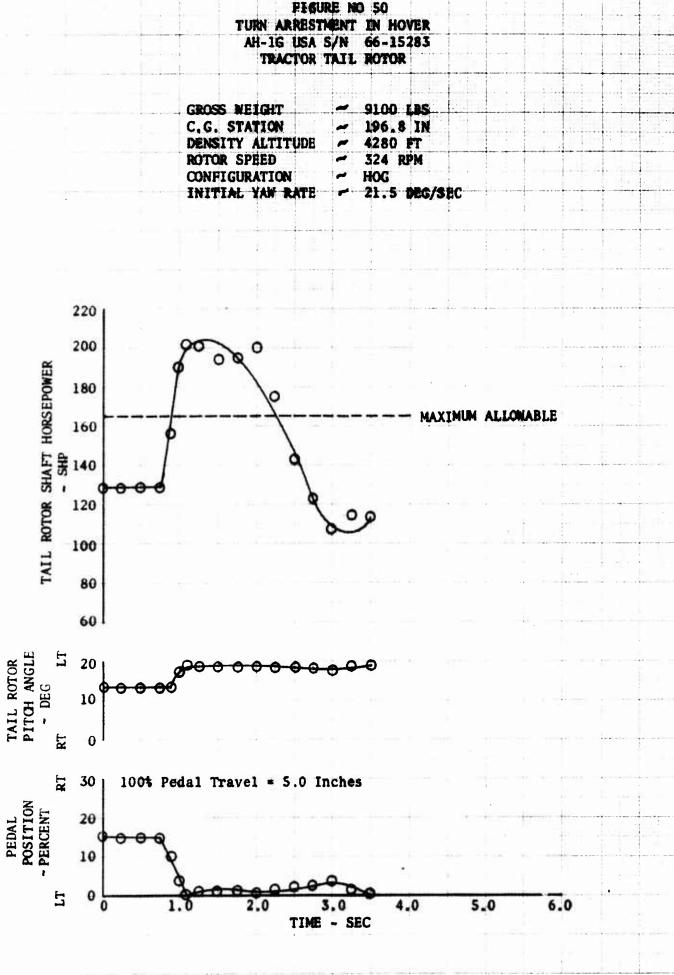


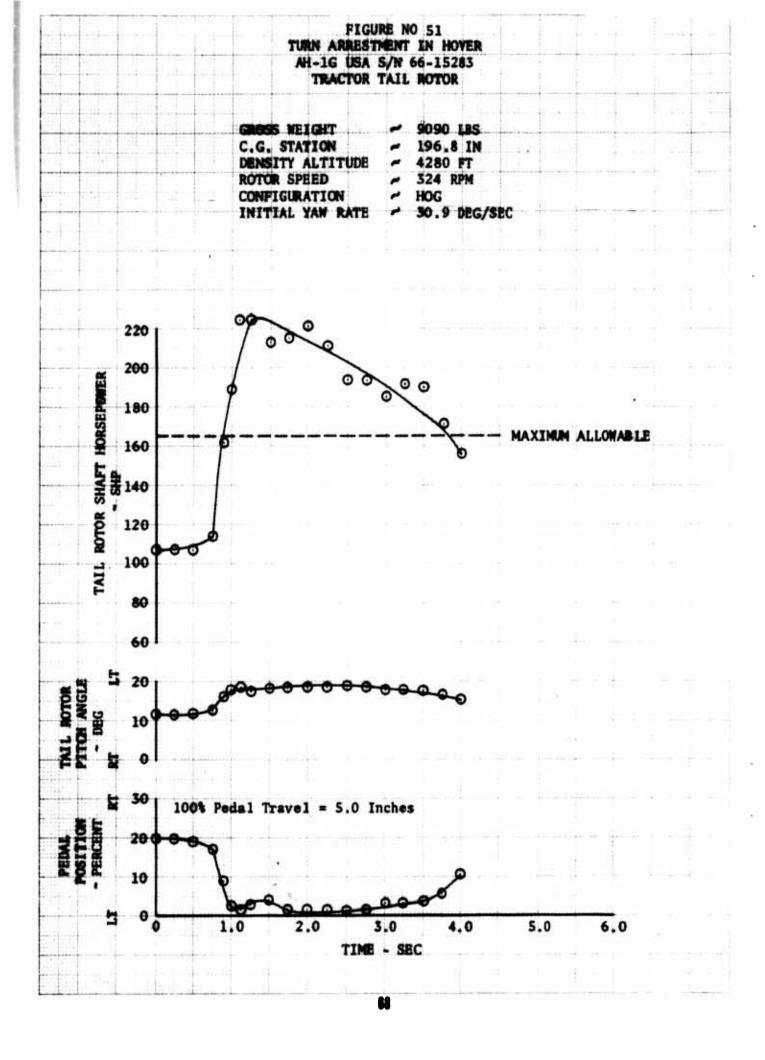


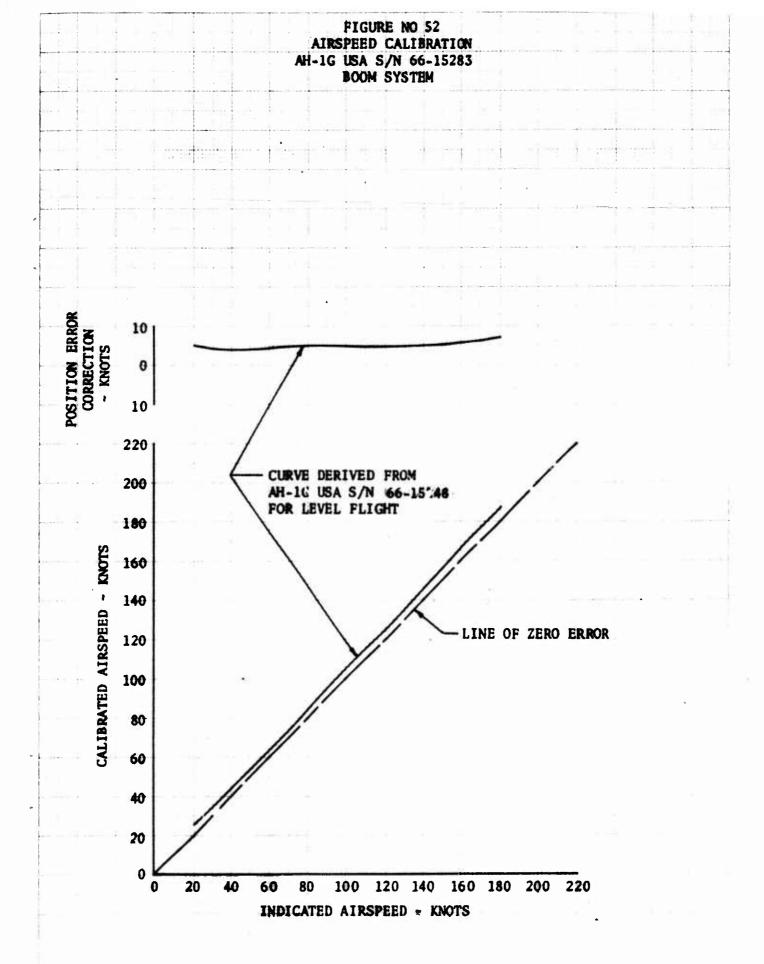












APPENDIX III. TEST INSTRUMENTATION

1. Flight test instrumentation was installed in the test helicopter by the contractor prior to the start of this evaluation with the exception of the fuel flow counter. The counter was calibrated and installed by USAAVNTA personnel. The flight test instrumentation was maintained by the USAAVNTA personnel with assistance from the contractor instrumentation engineer during the test program. The following parameters were utilized during the various tests:

Cockpit Panel

Airspeed (boom)
Altimeter (boom)
Outside air temperature
Tail rotor torque
Sensitive rotor tachometer
Fuel counter
Sideslip angle
Pedal position gage
Record counter

Photopane1

Airspeed (boom)
Altimeter (boom)
Outside air temperature
Fuel counter
Exhaust gas temperature
Gas producer speed
Dual tachometer
Record counter

Oscillograph

CG vertical acceleration
Engine delta torque pressure
Tail rotor shaft torque
Main rotor and tail rotor azimuth
Longitudinal cyclic position
Lateral cyclic position
Collective stick position
Longitudinal SAS actuator position
Lateral SAS actuator position
Directional SAS actuator position
Tail rotor flapping position

Throttle position
Pedal position
Pitch attitude gyro
Roll attitude gyro
Yaw attitude gyro
Pitch rate gyro
Roll rate gyro
Yaw rate gyro
Tail rotor pitch angle
Angle of attack
Angle of sideslip

APPENDIX IV AH-IG OPERATING LIMITATIONS

Limit Airspeed (V_L)

- 1. Hog configuration 180 KCAS below 3000 feet density altitude. Decrease 8 KCAS per 1000 feet above 3000 feet.
- 2. Basic and Scout configurations 190 KCAS below 4000 feet density altitude. Decrease 8 KCAS per 1000 feet above 4000 feet.

Gross Weight - Center of Gravity Envelope

- 3. Forward Limit Below 7000 pounds, fuselage station (FS) 190. Linear decrease from FS 190 at 7000 pounds to FS 192.1 at 9500 pounds.
- 4. Aft Limit Below 8270 pounds, FS 201. Linear decrease from FS 201 at 8270 pounds to FS 200 at 9500 pounds.

Sideslip Limits

5. Five degrees at V_L . Linear increase to 25 degrees at 60 KCAS.

RPM Limits (steady state)

- 6. Power on 6600 to 6400 engine rpm 324 to 314 rotor rpm
- 7. Power on 319 to 324 rpm during dives and maneuvers
- 8. Power off 304 to 339 rotor rpm
 250 rotor rpm transient lower limit

Temperature and Pressure Limits

Engine oil temperature Engine oil pressure 93°C maximum

25 psi minimum - 100 psi maximum

APPENDIX V. PILOT RATING SCALE

| | | SATISFACTORY | EXCELLENT, MIGHLY DESIRABLE | ₹ |
|---|--|--|--|----|
| | ACCEPTABLE MAY HAVE | MEELS ALL REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS, GOOD ENGUEN WITHOUT IMPROVEMENT | GOOD, PLEASANT, WELL BENAVED | 24 |
| | DEFICIENCIES WHICH WARRANT IMPROVEMENT, BUT ABEQUATE FOR MISSION. | CLEARLY ADEQUATE FOR Mission. | FAIR. SOME MILDLY UMPLEASANT CHARACTERISTICS. Good Enough for Mission Without Improvenent. | V3 |
| CONTROLLABLE | PILOT COMPENSATION, IF REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE | UNSATISFACTORY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTABLE. | SOME MINOR BUT ANNOYING DEFICIENCIES. IMPROVEMENT IS REQUESTED. Effect om Performance is easily compensated for by Pilot. | * |
| CAPABLE OF BEING CONTROLLED OR MANAGED IN CONTEXT | PERFORMANCE, 15 FEASIBLE. | DEFICIENCIES WHICH WARRANT IMPROVEMENT. PERFORMANCE ADEQUATE FOR MISSION WITH | MODERATELY OBJECTIONABLE DEFICIENCIES. IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED. Reasonable performance requires considerable pilot compensation. | ¥2 |
| OF MISSION, WITH AVAILABLE PILOT ATTENTION | | FEASIBLE PILOT COMPENSATION. | VERY OBJECTIONABLE DEFICIENCIES. MAJOR IMPROVENENTS ARE NEEDED. Requires best available Pilot Compensation to achieve Acceptable Performance. | 9 |
| | UMACCEPTABLE Deficiencies which | | MAJOR DEFICIENCIES WHICH REQUIRE MANDATORY IMPROVEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE. CONTROLLABLE. PERFORMANCE INADEQUATE FOR MISSION, OR PILOT COMPENSATION REQUIRED FOR MINIMAN ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE IN MISSION IS TOO MIGH. | 4 |
| | REQUIRE MANDATORY IMPROVEMENT. INADEQUATE PERFORMANCE FOR MICHORY | | CONTROLLABLE WITH DIFFICULTY. REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL PILOT SKILL AND ATTENTION TO RETAIN CONTROL AND CONTINUE MISSION. | 3 |
| | MAXIMUM FEASIBLE PILOT COMPENSATION. | | MARGINALLY CONTROLLABLE IN MISSION. REQUIRES MAXIMUM AVAILABLE Pilot skill and attention to retain control. | S |
| UNCONTROLLABLE CONTROL WILL BE | NCONTROLLABLE CONTROL WILL BE LOST DURING SOME PORTION OF MISSION. | DF MISSION. | UNCONTROLLABLE IN MISSION. | 2 |
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APPENDIX VI. DISTRIBUTION

| Agency | Test Plans | Equipment Failure Reports | Interim Reports | |
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| US Army Aviation Systems Command | | | | |
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| Commanding General | | | | |
| US Army Materiel Command | | | • | |
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| Commanding General | | | | |
| US Army Materiel Command | | | | |
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| Washington, D. C. 20315 | | | | |
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| Commanding Officer US Army Aviation Materiel Laboratories | | | | |
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| SAVFE-AM | - | - | _ | 1 |
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| Director US Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center Quantico, Virginia 22133 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
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The Army Preliminary Evaluation of the tractor tail rotor modification on the AH-1G helicopter was conducted in California at Bishop Municipal Airport (4000 ft) and Coyote Flats (9500 ft) during the period 9 August to 31 August 1968. This test was conducted to confirm the results of the feasibility tests with the proposed final configuration for this modification and also to evaluate both the performance in hover and level flight and the handling qualities throughout the flight envelope. This modification provides an increase in the usable in-ground-effect (IGE) operating envelope and improves the directional control characteristics while maneuvering. The test showed good agreement with the results of the earlier feasibility tests. The maximum safe IGE maneuvering envelope for the tractor tail rotor AH-1G was determined and defined by those conditions of gross weight and density altitude where a 10-percent directional control margin was available in the critical azimuth in a 15knot wind. Using the same criteria for the standard AH-1G configuration, the difference due to the improved directional control with the tractor tail rotor is equivalent to an additional 1500 pounds

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Security Classification LINK B LINK C KEY WORDS ROLE ROLE ROLE WT WT WT Army Preliminary Evaluation AH-1G helicopter Tractor tail rotor modification Confirm results Feasibility tests Proposed final configuration Performance Handling qualities Flight envelope Increase In-ground-effect operating envelope Improves Directional control While maneuvering Maximum envelope determined Additional payload Basic directional control Problem not solved

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